

review with today's Times No 61,099

Heavy lorry Bill may be defeated

Defeat faces the Government next week over its proposals to raise the maximum weight of lorries from 32.5 to 40 tonnes (Philip Webster writes). Sensing Conservative disunity over the plan, contained in a White Paper on Tuesday, the Opposition has tabled a motion for a vote on Wednesday stating that the Government's proposals are inadequate to solve the existing problem of heavy lorries and opposing any further increase.

Spain applies to join Nato

Spain could become the sixteenth member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation by the spring, Dr Joseph Luns, Nato Secretary-General, welcomed the Spanish initiative to join the alliance. The value of Spain to Nato is as much its strategic position as its 342,000 men in uniform. Page 6

Labour group loses 11 to SDP

Eleven members of the ruling Labour group on Southwark borough council, in south London, will quit the party today to join the SDP, alleging that the government is leaving extremists in control of the constituency and local government party organisations in the borough. Page 2

Schools Council seeks meeting

Criticism of the Schools Council published in *The Times* yesterday moved Mr John Tomlinson, the council's chairman, to seek an urgent meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, to "clarify the issues". Some of the proposed changes could imply the council's closure. Page 2

Courts given new powers

Imprisonment for offenders aged under 21 is abolished under the terms of a new Criminal Justice Bill, which gives the courts new powers but critics argue that the Bill will not do enough to cut overcrowding in prisons. Page 4

Doubts remain on Sinai force

The Israeli and American governments issued the text of their joint statement on the Sinai peacekeeping force intended to avert an Israeli veto on the participation of contingents from four European nations. But there was uncertainty over the Europeans' reaction. Page 6

New hope for bone children

The Prime Minister says the Government is looking at the possibility of opening more bone marrow transplant centres. *The Times* reported yesterday that funds limit transplants at the Westminster Hospital, London, to 25 a year, and 97 children had died waiting. Back page

Bank lending rate down by 1%

New year cut expected in mortgage rate

By John Whitmore and Lorna Bourke
The cost of borrowing will be marginally cheaper from today after a small cut in the base lending rate by the main high street banks, from 15 to 14 1/2 per cent.

But this does not mean a big enough reduction to allow for an instant cut in building society interest rates. If interest rates in the money markets ease further over the next week or two, however, then there could well be lower mortgage rates, if not before Christmas then early in the New Year.

While the Government hopes that interest rates will continue to fall, it has said that it does not expect them to fall swiftly. The official aim at the moment appears to be to allow interest rates to fall steadily over months rather than in sudden big steps.

The monetary authorities believe they are regaining control over the money supply after the excessive growth during the summer, part of which resulted from the impact of the civil servants' dispute on pay claims. But they do not wish to relax their grip too rapidly, particularly until there is some evidence that the personal sector's strong appetite for bank credit may be starting to wane.

A further consideration is the exchange rate. Although the Government has no official exchange rate target, it is assumed that it would like the rate to continue somewhere close to its present level. That means that United Kingdom interest rates cannot be lowered as far as the density of what is happening in overseas financial markets. The recent falls in United States interest rates have made it easier for British rates to be cut, but there have been signs over the last few days that United States rates may have stopped falling for the present.

Yesterday the pound closed 180 cents down at \$4.935. The effects of the devaluation on the pound will be to lower the interest rate for prime industrial borrowers to 15 per cent.

Most personal borrowers are charged anything from 3 to 5 per cent over base rate for overdraft facilities. None of the high street banks has moved its bank loan rates, in spite of the bank base rates fall of 1.5 points since the banks' mortgage rate was fixed at a record 15 per cent on October 8. But if interest rates continue downward it is not going to be long before the bank mortgage rate falls below Christmas, a Barclays spokesman said.



Trudeau's triumph: Celebrating MPs applied the Canadian Prime Minister after the convincing vote in the House of Commons in Ottawa to bring the Canadian Constitution home from Britain. (Quebec mourns, page 6).

Heseltine to force home sales

By Hugh Noyes
Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced yesterday in the Commons that he has decided for the first time to use his powers under the Housing Act, 1980, to force through the sale of council houses in Norwich. Mr Heseltine told the House that the Norwich City Council had been given repeated warnings that they were moving too slowly in fulfilling the rights of their tenants to buy their homes.

The intervention by the Secretary of State, which caused uproar on the Labour benches in the Commons, means that civil servants from the Department of the Environment will move into Norwich on Monday to take over the task of selling council houses to tenants.

The Department said yesterday that about 12 other councils have had warnings about the slowness of their progress in carrying out sales and that between five and ten of these were proving difficult. It was hoped that the action being taken in the case of Norwich would persuade others to move more swiftly.

In the Commons, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman for the Environment, immediately denounced Mr Heseltine's action as high handed.

Mr Patricia Hollis, deputy leader of Norwich council, said last night the council would seek an injunction preventing further moves by Mr Heseltine (David Walker writes).

Poland unable to pay back \$500m debt

From Peter Norman, Frankfurt, Dec 3
The two-month-old agreement to reschedule the part of Poland's commercial bank debt falling due this year is threatened with collapse. Poland has told West German Bankers involved with the rescheduling operation that it cannot fulfil its pledge to pay back \$500m (£250m) by the end of this year as part of the agreement in principle to restructure the debt.

The Polish authorities argue that paying back the funds would effectively plunge their country into bankruptcy at the beginning of next year, and that if they are to meet their obligations, they must have more money.

As a result, the rescheduling agreement that was negotiated on behalf of 450 Western banks by Poland and an international taskforce of leading creditor banks are still waiting to be formally signed.

The West German and American banks appear to be determined to take a tough line. There is a growing feeling that Poland has deliberately played for time in the debt negotiations. Recent visits to Poland by groups of bank executives reporting to the task force have done little to reassure the creditor banks that Poland is putting its economic house in order.

The West German bankers insist that Western banks cannot provide any new money for Poland until the backpayments are made and the October agreements signed.

Waldheim withdraws candidacy

From Our Correspondent New York, Dec 3
Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, today withdrew his candidacy for reelection and asked that his name be dropped from further balloting in the Security Council. The move has stunned diplomats here as it was believed that support for an extension of Dr Waldheim's term had been gathering momentum.

However, delegates at the United Nations are divided on whether Dr Waldheim is stepping down or gambling that his decision will perpetuate a deadlock in the voting, keeping him in office after his present term expires at the end of this month.

It is thought that the Security Council could then take up to three years to find an acceptable candidate.

Diplomatic sources said that a report issued today by the Chinese news agency stating that Peking would continue to block Dr Waldheim's candidacy, had prompted the Secretary-General's decision to bow out gracefully rather than be further humiliated in the balloting.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council, Dr Waldheim said he had decided that in the best interest of the organization and to facilitate the task of the council, he would ask that his name not be included in further ballots that the council might hold.

Sacking of 800 sparks steel confrontation

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor
A fresh labour relations crisis last night hit state steel with the collapse of pay negotiations between the British Steel Corporation and the industry's largest union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Foot lashes out at left candidate

By Anthony Reynolds and Philip Webster
Mr Michael Foot stunned Labour MPs yesterday with an off-the-cuff remark in the Commons that he would do all in his power to block the endorsement of one of the left prospective parliamentary candidates, Mr Peter Tatchell, of Birmingham.

The statement was provoked during Prime Minister's question time by a barbed reference from Mr James Wellbeloved, a Social Democrat, pointing out that Mr Tatchell had called for the mobilisation of extra-parliamentary action to challenge the Government's right to rule.

Won't you play Santa to a lonely little girl?

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Mr John Golding, a staunch opponent of the left, said: "I am delighted that Michael Foot is seeing sense and is now prepared to take his jacket off to the bully boys of the left."

Mr Tatchell's adoption had brought home to Mr Foot the key issue, "that if we allow the party to be taken over by extremist middle-class political fixers of the extreme left, then the party will fall apart and be deserted by decent, ordinary, Labour voters."

Parliamentary report, page 5

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Home News	2-4	Motoring	21
Overseas	6-7	Parliament	2
Arts	12	Science	2
TV & Radio	23	23	
Business	14-19	TV & Radio	23
Courts	20	25 Yrs Ago	12
Diary	10	Weather	24
Law Reports	4	Wills	12

NEWS IN SUMMARY

On-the-spot fines for fare-dodgers

On-the-spot fines are to be introduced next month on buses in Greater Manchester as part of a campaign against fare-dodgers, who are costing the city's transport department £2m a year (a Staff Reporter writes).

Passenger transport authorities throughout the rest of Britain will watch the scheme which is the first of its kind in Britain, being implemented on 2,500 buses, before deciding to follow Greater Manchester.

Fare-dodging is costing the city's transport department £2m a year. Greater Manchester had to sponsor a private Bill in Parliament to get authority to impose instant fines, but expects that within a week of the scheme beginning on January 4 they will be saving £2,000 a week.

£9m deficit still likely for fund

The national insurance fund is still expected to have a deficit of £9m next year, despite the higher contributions employees will have to pay from next April. This was disclosed yesterday when the Government's annual report was published with the new Social Security (Contributions) Bill, 1981 (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

The Bill will give the Government power to raise above present legal limits the ceiling on earnings on which employees pay contributions, and to waive the formula normally used to increase contributions for the self-employed.

Social Security (Contributions) Bill, 1981, Report by the Government. *Annexes to the Bill (Command 8448, Stationery Office, £1.80).*

Bomb wrecks car showroom

Forensic scientists are trying to identify the explosive device used to blow up a car showroom in South Wales. The blast wrecked offices and several new cars at John Bevan Motors, the main dealer for Concochodan-built Skoda cars in Swansea, late on Wednesday night. Five homes and shops were also damaged.

Detectives confirmed yesterday that traces of explosives had been discovered. They ruled out any political motive. Mr John Bevan, the garage owner, said he had no idea why he should be a target. He estimated damage at £50,000.

Little appetite for Howe dinner

A businessman's dinner at which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was to have been the guest speaker tonight was cancelled yesterday after only 35 tickets had been sold.

The £50-a-head meal at the Great Dunes Hotel, near Maidstone, Kent, had been organized by Turnbridge Wells Conservative Party for businessmen attending a conference on the EEC. A spokesman said: "It is rather disappointing that a bit embarrassing. I suppose some people might feel that £50 a head is a bit dear for dining with the Chancellor."

Whale products ban adopted

The EEC ban on whale products, originally proposed by the United Kingdom, is to come into effect from January 1, after its formal adoption yesterday by the European Council of Environment Ministers.

The ban does not cover all whale products; but it will no longer be legal to import sperm oil and spermaceti into the UK, with a wide range of other products including leather and fur skins treated with whale oil, and products made from them.

Dublin to drop airport backing

The Irish Government is to drop its commitment to build an international airport at the remote pilgrimage village of Knock in the west of Ireland. Withdrawal of finance from the airport, which is being built in a co Mayo bog, has been under serious consideration for some time, and with public spending cuts yesterday's decision was not unexpected.

Two rescued as aircraft ditches

The two occupants of a light aircraft which ditched in the Channel 30 miles off Bournemouth were under medical observation at Portland naval base, Dorset, last night after being rescued by a naval helicopter.

The Piper Comanche aircraft, piloted by a woman taking her flying test, ditched on its way from Guernsey to Herne airport. Two naval ships were diverted and four helicopters sent from Portland. The couple were named as Mr Caradoc Jones, of Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, and the flying instructor, Miss Gill Duncan, of Taunton.

Engineer's accept 5%

The 17 unions within the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions yesterday decided formally to accept a 5.06 per cent pay rise after affecting almost two million engineering industry workers.

'Southwark 11' defect from Labour to SDP

By Richard Ford

Eleven members of the ruling Labour group on Southwark Borough Council in south London will leave the party today to join the Social Democrats, alleging that "unpleasant left-wing extremists" effectively control the constituency and local government party organizations in the borough.

They will join two other SDP members who have left Labour and another who has recently won a by-election. The SDP will become the official opposition on the council instead of the Conservatives who have only seven councillors.

Labour will continue to control the council, with 43 members.

The defections come shortly before right-wing members of Labour's national executive committee are to press for an inquiry to be held into the party organization in Southwark. The local party has decided to exclude Mr John O'Grady, Labour leader of the council for the past 14 years, from its candidates' list for the local elections in May.

Mr O'Grady, aged 61, has been a Southwark councillor for 25 years and some Labour MPs are supporting him. It is possible that his treatment could provoke a parliamentary by-election in Southwark, a borough the seat held by Mr Robert Mellish, the former Labour Chief Whip.

Among those who will announce their defection today are Mr Charles Sawyer, chairman of the borough's housing committee, Mr E. Evelyn Ashford, his vice-chairman, and Mr Steve Kippin, the chief whip. The others are: Mr Bert Ray, Mr Charles Halford, Mr James Dower, Mr Bill Payne (the deputy mayor), Mrs Florrie Sampson, Mr Peter Flower, Mrs Meg White, and Mr Arthur Knight.

SDP is socialist, councillors say

The three Islington Labour councillors whose defection to the SDP has given the party control of its first local authority spoke yesterday of their continuing commitment to socialism (David Walker writes).

One of them, Mr Christopher Pryor, said: "None of us can make the statement at the moment that the Social Democratic Party is not a socialist party." He and his colleagues would be fighting to ensure the new party was genuinely radical.

At a press conference, all three made plain that their political transfer was governed by the state of the Labour Party. "We can no longer reconcile our beliefs in representative democracy and parliamentary socialism with the increasing intolerance and

banker's vision of financial rectitude."

Mr Dorrell, who is one of the more outspoken left-wing Conservative MPs, has often been referred to as a possible SDP recruit. Writing in yesterday's *Evening Standard*, he said he did not find such a course attractive.

"I welcome the emergence of the SDP, because it should make us think more seriously about what the Conservative Party has historically stood for," he said. As a more attractive political force than the present Labour Party, the SDP had put Conservatives on their mettle to an extent they had not known since the 1950s.

ILEA CUT HALVED BY WHITEHALL

By Our Education Correspondent

The Government's announcement yesterday that no local authority will be required to cut their expenditure by more than 7 per cent will mean that the Inner London Education Authority's cut will be 50m.

Asked for his reaction to the Government's unexpected decision, Mr Bryn Davies, leader of the ILEA, said: "I do not regret the decision, but I am disappointed that it means a £50m cut in budget of £700m. It is still very bad news for the authority, and will mean a noticeable reduction in the quality of the service."

Girls in ILEA schools are significantly more likely than boys to stay on at school beyond the age of 16, according to a report considered yesterday by the authority's 15-19 review subcommittee.

The saying-on rate for girls last year was, on average, a quarter higher than for boys.

The biggest difference was in Lewisham where half the girls in the fifth form stayed on, compared with slightly more than one-third of the boys, and in Lambeth where 46 per cent of the girls stayed on, compared with 31 per cent of the boys. In only one of the authority's 10 divisions, Wandsworth, was there no appreciable difference.

The proportion of all pupils staying on at ILEA schools in September, 1980 was 38 per cent, 4 per cent higher than in the previous year. The figures do not include those pupils who left to take up full-time places in colleges of further education.

extremism of the Labour Party in Islington.

This is evidenced, for example, by the policies recently incorporated into the manifesto for the new local elections, the proposed subordination of elected councillors to Labour Party committees and the obvious contempt shown by many new members of the party for accepted democratic procedures."

Although the three have been warmly welcomed by the SDP, they declared their support for Mr George Cunningham, MP for Islington, South and Finsbury, who left the Labour Party this week to sit as an independent.

Next week, at a meeting of Islington Borough Council, committee positions will be reallocated among SDP councillors. Few important policy changes are expected until after next May, except in housing and social services.

Tory fear helped us, Williams claims

Mr Shirley Williams told businessmen in Düsseldorf yesterday that her victory in the Crosby by-election was partly due to fear among Conservative middle-class voters that unemployment would spread to them (Patricia Clough writes from Düsseldorf).

She also told her party German audience that the influence in Washington of Herr Helmut Schmidt, West Germany's Social Democrat Chancellor, for East-West stability and disarmament had been "a major electoral asset."

She added that in Britain the SDP would advocate a relatively modest investment programme which would take many thousands off the dole queues.

Scotland is setting the pace in co-operation between the Liberal and Social Democratic parties, spokesman for the Alliance said yesterday (Robin Young writes).

Earlier this week, the parties in the Lothian region announced their agreement as to which party should field candidates in which wards in the regional council elections to be held next May, the joint policy on which they would fight.

In some constituencies in Scotland, co-operation is very close.

Labour moderates in Scotland see the damage in popularity of the party shown in an opinion poll published yesterday as a self-inflicted wound.

The opinion poll by System Three, published in the *Glasgow Herald*, showed post-Crosby support in Scotland for the SDP at 27 per cent, compared with 16 per cent two months ago.

Tory MP's plea for change

By Our Political Editor

An appeal to the Conservative Party to recapture the centre ground of politics to sign the death warrant of the Social Democratic Party was made yesterday by Mr Stephen Dorrell, Conservative MP for Leamington.

He said number of Conservative MPs and many hundreds of thousands of the party's supporters were unhappy with parts of the Government's record, in particular with the failure of their economic policies to produce the recovery of output, profits and employment which had been persistently promised.

Those Conservatives were afraid that the party's historic commitment to growth and reform might be replaced by a

murdering an Ulster Defence Regiment man in 1979 and also faced charges of attempted murder and possession of firearms.

The three captured escapers are likely to be charged under the Criminal Law (Northern Ireland) Act, a little-used act that allows people to be tried on either side of the border, irrespective of where the alleged offence occurred, with attempting to murder a detective constable while escaping. They will also be charged with escaping from lawful custody.

Police in Northern Ireland said yesterday that the RUC would continue to be on full alert for the present. There are fears of a pre-Christmas bombing campaign by the IRA.

The RUC added that eight additional mobile divisional support units, which are designed to react swiftly to emergencies, and which were created in the past few weeks, would be retained permanently.

The Army's 600-strong Spearhead battalion, which is operating on the border, is in the province for the present. The intensive new security drive comes after the murder last month by the IRA of the Rev Robert Bradford, official Unionist MP for Belfast, South. It is increasingly apparent that a Provisional IRA defector is giving vital information to the police which has resulted in a series of successful operations in recent weeks. The informer, whose name is openly used in the Catholic areas of West Belfast, is believed to be living in northern England.

Future of the Schools Council Chairman seeks urgent talks with Joseph

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Schools Council announced yesterday that its chairman, Mr John Koulberson, was to seek an urgent meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to "clarify the issues" raised in yesterday's report in *The Times* of criticisms of the council by Department of Education and Science (DES) officials.

The report gave details of confidential oral evidence given by department officials to Mrs Nancy Treenman, Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, who has just completed a review for the Government of the council's constitution and responsibilities for curriculum development and public examinations.

The DES officials were highly critical of the council's staff structure, methods of work, chosen areas of activity, and effectiveness. Mrs Treenman said that the changes they proposed amounted to the closure of the council and the creation of a quite different body.

The Inspectorate for Schools, which operates within the DES but rigorously maintains its independence, presented a markedly different view of the council in its written evidence to Mrs Treenman.

While it echoed many of the DES officials' criticisms of the council's structure, its failure to identify priorities adequately, and its weaknesses with regard to the evaluation and dissemination of its work, the inspectorate considered that significant progress had been made since the council's reorganization in 1978 and that much of its work deserved praise.

The council had completed a number of outstanding projects which had made a considerable impact in the classroom, it said. They had led to observable improvements in motivation and in the quality of learning in, for example, classics, geography and history in the primary school, some

projects such as "science 5-13", "linguistics and English teaching" and "health education 5-13" had been equally good. They had contributed to teachers' understanding of pupils of that age.

However, in general the council's activities had not had a widespread influence on work in the classroom. Sometimes that was due to the inability of the system and teachers to respond to the initiative, but sometimes it was due to the quality of the project and its material.

The DES officials were particularly critical about the management of the council's staff.

There are some obvious attractions to replacing films by using a computer system to convert an image created by X-rays into a form that can be projected directly on to a television screen and stored electronically. X-ray films, with their valuable silver content, are increasingly expensive items; they are also bulky and difficult to retrieve.

But there is a far greater potential advantage that could make medical diagnosis more precise. Although X-ray films provide the only means of obtaining high resolution pictures of the chest, for example, a lot of detail is lost in the photographic process.

Different X-ray procedures can be used to give a clear picture of bony structures or of blood vessels and air cavities. The perennial difficulty has been to present a picture giving the same clarity for both structures and air spaces. That is the purpose of the research into electronic image processing research.

At this preliminary stage, normal X-ray pictures are being converted by an electronic scanner into a digital code and stored on a special computer image processor. The picture can be called up on to a television screen in a format which looks identical to the conventional film, and also in a variety of other presentations devised to highlight either a small portion of the picture or particular types of blood vessels and organs.

One object of image processing is to reduce the number of X-ray examinations needed to determine whether certain types of abnormality are present.

A simple example is to create a picture which is made by combining two images which are a millimetre out of register. Manipulations of this type can be done in a large number of ways, even though the original image is stored in the computer processor.

The process is based on a system of coding which divides each picture into a series of points (or pixels, as they are called by experts in image processing) of 200 microns size, and described as one of 256 levels on a colour scale of grey.

X-ray systems already in use which project a picture on a television screen at the same time as a film is made. The technical gap to overcome is in the design of a system which will feed the X-ray image for direct conversion into its digital form.

UNIONS TOLD PLANS FOR 'EXPRESS'

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Newspaper union leaders were told yesterday by Lord Matthews, chief executive of the Newspaper Society, that plans to float a new company for Express Newspapers would not affect ownership of the titles.

In talks with the unions it was made clear that the £25m company, Fleet Newspapers, would retain its ownership of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star*, but expansion plans will be curtailed.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary at the National Graphical Association, told an assurance had been given that the position of employees would not be affected by the "restructuring" of the newspaper company from Trafalgar House.

Shareholders in Trafalgar House will be offered shares in the new company, which is expected to have a capital value of £55m. But a third price line due to come into operation in London will be maintained, union sources said, because the management estimates that the cost of meeting union demands for operating it would be £6m a year.

A building under construction in Manchester would be completed but not occupied, with the consequent mothballing of another price line.

The issue of newspaper bingo was also raised yesterday, and Lord Matthews was understood to have told the unions that he had set a date to withdraw unilaterally from this form of promotion because it was no longer worth while.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.25; Bahrain \$0.45; Belgium \$1.15; Brazil \$1.15; Canada \$1.15; Denmark \$1.15; France \$1.15; Germany \$1.15; Greece \$1.15; Hong Kong \$1.15; India \$1.15; Italy \$1.15; Japan \$1.15; Korea \$1.15; Kuwait \$1.15; Lebanon \$1.15; Libya \$1.15; Luxembourg \$1.15; Malaysia \$1.15; Mexico \$1.15; Netherlands \$1.15; New Zealand \$1.15; Norway \$1.15; Oman \$1.15; Pakistan \$1.15; Peru \$1.15; Portugal \$1.15; Qatar \$1.15; Saudi Arabia \$1.15; Singapore \$1.15; South Africa \$1.15; Spain \$1.15; Sweden \$1.15; Switzerland \$1.15; Taiwan \$1.15; Thailand \$1.15; Turkey \$1.15; U.A.E. \$1.15; U.K. \$1.15; U.S.A. \$1.15; Venezuela \$1.15; Yugoslavia \$1.15.



Princess Margaret visiting a new JobCentre yesterday during a tour of Liverpool, where 14,000 people are chasing 250 vacancies. Later she went on to a students' Christmas ball at Keele University, of which she is Chancellor.

Fighting talk drew CB users

A citizens' band radio

account of a fist fight drew spectators to this stage at 1.30 am, on Saturday at Barnsley, South Yorkshire, where five people admitted causing a breach of the peace.

So many listeners turned up outside Mr John Norton's house at Roebuck Street, Wombwell, South Yorkshire, that neighbours ran outside in their nightclothes, Mr Stephen Battersby, for the prosecution said. Mr Norton, referred to in the broadcast as "Lumberjack", was involved in the fight with Mr Sean Taylor, known as "Ever Ready".

Robert Ford, aged 21, of Roebuck Street, Wombwell; Martin Taylor, aged 18, of Smith Street, Wombwell; William Gilfillan, aged 24, of Dearne Road, Brampton, South Yorkshire; William Evans, aged 27, of Cemetery Road, Wombwell; and Stephen Brad, aged 23, of Dearne Road, Brampton, were bound over for a year.

Mr Beadling told the court: "We heard 'Lumberjack' was beating up 'Ever Ready'."

Ferry sit-in ends after new operator emerges

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

The crews of the two P & O Liverpool to Belfast ferries voted to end their occupation of the ship today after it was announced yesterday that an unnamed operator would take over the service.

Officials of the National Union of Seamen (NUS) put the results of lengthy peace talks to members on board the Ulster Prince and the Ulster Queen. They said the Irish Continental line would be the new operator, though that was not confirmed.

Each crew member has accepted a £2,500 pay-off and six who are aged over 60 will get severance payments of between £13,000 and £20,000.

The union says the agreement is historic, as severance settlements have rarely exceeded £4,000.

The new service, which the union hopes will start on January 1, will provide jobs for all the existing crew members.

Mr Roy Phylack, chairman of the union's action committee, said: "Our members have been assured that they will be employed on the new service. The men will also get money to live on until the new service begins."

Mr Phylack said: "We have been told by NUS head office that the Irish Continental line will be contacting us in the next few days about opening up the route. We have been told that they will use two ships on the service and will need at least 166 crew members. The first ship will start operating on January 1 and the second should be ready by Easter."

P & O planned to use the service from November 11, blaming losses of more than £1m this year alone.

Multiple killers get life sentences

A man who murdered four times was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to five life terms and recommended to serve a minimum of 30 years.

Michael Jamieson, aged 24, showed no interest as he was addressed by Mr James Mickin, QC, Recorder of London.

Mr Jamieson, aged 25, Jamieson's partner, was given two life terms, with a recommendation that he should serve at least 20 years.

Judge Mickin said he made the recommendations and sentencing. He passed additional prison terms totalling 19 years in Mr Jamieson's case and 16 years in Mr Anderson's. They were for offences ranging from armed robbery to burglary and social security frauds.

The judge described Mr Jamieson, of Folkestone Road, East Ham, east London, and Mr Anderson, of Hammarley Avenue, North Woolwich, south-east London, as "desperately dangerous" and "heedless of the sufferings of their victims."

He praised the courage of Det Constable John Kathro, aged 35, and Det Sergeant Ronald Corle, aged 40, who in September last year talked Mr Jamieson and Mr Anderson into surrendering.

Mr Jamieson was convicted of four murders and an attempted murder in two trials. The offences took place within 18 days of each other and in total just £1,185 was stolen.

Mr Joseph Herbert, aged 74, and his wife, aged 78, were tortured and stabbed to death at their home in Plaistow, east London, on August 30 last year.

Mr Anderson was cleared of murder at the first trial in October.

On September 8, 1980, Mr Chankhal Gahadi, aged 42, a sub-postmaster, was shot through the heart by Mr Jamieson at his shop in East Ham, but "miraculously survived". Mr Jamieson admitted attempted murder and robbery. Mr Anderson was cleared of other offences were admitted

12 airports to be expanded

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Government yesterday gave clearance for expansion at 12 English airports. But it said that the resulting extra capacity would not remove the need for a third London airport.

Ministers have sanctioned a rise of almost a third to 246.6m in the amount which local councils will be allowed to spend next year on terminals and runways at the airports.

Mr Ian Sproat, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade, said at Westminster: "This represents the largest approved capital expenditure of its kind since the war."

Meanwhile, in the isolated grounds of an Essex country house, a senior official of the department explained why the Government saw no hope of spreading round provincial airports the extra demand expected in London.

Mr Douglas Harris, assistant secretary in charge of the airports branch of the department, was speaking in the tenth week of the public inquiry into Stansted airport.

He said: "The distribution and nature of the spare capacity at the regional airports is such that very considerable development would be required for any one of these airports to handle anything approaching the number of passengers envisaged in the British Airports Authority's Statutory proposals."

He explained that in the 1970s the Government had examined ways of persuading passengers to use provincial airports instead of those near London. One way was to levy a tax on all passengers departing on flights abroad from London; another to subsidize airlines which expanded their national routes from London to the provinces.

"It is improbable that any government is likely to wish to subsidize air transport services," Mr Harris said.

Research had shown that business travellers would probably pay the levy and still use London. Others would choose the nearest provincial airport in London, and it might take a decade to persuade them to plan their journeys from as far away as Manchester.

Mr Harris said that provincial airports would probably be able to meet growth in local demand to the end of the century. Evidence from the department showed that Luton could not cope with the 15 million passengers a year as envisaged by the BAA for Stansted, though it is only 30 miles to the west.

Police arresting Anderson and Jamieson at gunpoint after a siege in Plaistow, east London, last year.

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Computers may clear the X-ray picture

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A method of processing X-ray pictures which clear them up for recording on film is at an early stage of development. The research is a collaborative project between radiologists from the Brompton Hospital, in London, and specialists in electronic processing and storage of images at the IBM Science Centre, at Winchester, Hampshire.

There are some obvious attractions to replacing films by using a computer system to convert an image created by X-rays into a form that can be projected directly on to a television screen and stored electronically. X-ray films, with their valuable silver content, are increasingly expensive items; they are also bulky and difficult to retrieve.

But there is a far greater potential advantage that could make medical diagnosis more precise. Although X-ray films provide the only means of obtaining high resolution pictures of the chest, for example, a lot of detail is lost in the photographic process.

Different X-ray procedures can be used to give a clear picture of bony structures or of blood vessels and air cavities. The perennial difficulty has been to present a picture giving the same clarity for both structures and air spaces. That is the purpose of the research into electronic image processing research.

At this preliminary stage, normal X-ray pictures are being converted by an electronic scanner into a digital code and stored on a special computer image processor. The picture can be called up on to a television screen in a format which looks identical to the conventional film, and also in a variety of other presentations devised to highlight either a small portion of the picture or particular types of blood vessels and organs.

One object of image processing is to reduce the number of X-ray examinations needed to determine whether certain types of abnormality are present.

A simple example is to create a picture which is made by combining two images which are a millimetre out of register. Manipulations of this type can be done in a large number of ways, even though the original image is stored in the computer processor.

The process is based on a system of coding which divides each picture into a series of points (or pixels, as they are called by experts in image processing) of 200 microns size, and described as one of 256 levels on a colour scale of grey.

X-ray systems already in use which project a picture on a television screen at the same time as a film is made. The technical gap to overcome is in the design of a system which will feed the X-ray image for direct conversion into its digital form.

UNIONS TOLD PLANS FOR 'EXPRESS'

Newspaper union leaders were told yesterday by Lord Matthews, chief executive of the Newspaper Society, that plans to float a new company for Express Newspapers would not affect ownership of the titles.

In talks with the unions it was made clear that the £25m company, Fleet Newspapers, would retain its ownership of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star*, but expansion plans will be curtailed.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary at the National Graphical Association, told an assurance had been given that the position of employees would not be affected by the "restructuring" of the newspaper company from Trafalgar House.

Shareholders in Trafalgar House will be offered shares in the new company, which is expected to have a capital value of

Aid to parents in Hume's Opus Dei guidelines

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Young people wishing to join the Roman Catholic organization, Opus Dei, must first discuss the matter with their parents or legal guardians, and no one under the age of 18 should take a vow or make a long-term commitment to it, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has stated in a formal letter to the leaders of Opus Dei in Britain. Any exception to the first rule must be cleared with the local Roman Catholic bishop first if there are, in exceptional cases, good reasons. Cardinal Hume has received several complaints from parents that their sons or daughters had joined Opus Dei without first telling them, and complaints that teenagers had been recruited by the group. He has specified that individuals must not be put under undue pressure to join or remain in membership, and that Opus Dei members must be free to choose their own spiritual director, including one who is outside Opus Dei. Further, activities sponsored or managed by Opus Dei must be clearly identified as such. The secretariat of Opus Dei in Britain issued a statement saying that its members in the Westminster diocese were "very grateful to Cardinal Hume for his fatherly care and blessing". The recommendations were welcomed, the statement said, because they were in line with what members of Opus Dei have always sought to do in Britain and in the rest of the world. "As is well known, the spirit of Opus Dei is based on a great love of freedom. It has always defended and will always defend personal freedom and responsibility, not only in the exercise of one's profession but also in all aspects of life, including that of joining or leaving the institution."

His fundamental principle, Cardinal Hume says, is that any international movement "may well have to be modified prudently" in the light of local cultural differences and local customs and standards. His four points are intended to help it to adapt to the traditional spirituality and instincts of our people". It is authoritatively said that some of the more rigorous spiritual practices of Opus Dei, such as physical mortification by means of a five-cord whip and a sharp chain, are considered out of place in contemporary English Catholicism. But there is no reference to such matters in Cardinal Hume's letter.

One of the cardinal's points covers the accusation made by a former member, Dr John Roche, of Linacre College, Oxford, that strong psychological pressure was applied to him and to many others not to leave Opus Dei. One detail of his charge was that Opus Dei members were able to turn for spiritual advice only to other Opus Dei members. That made it difficult to choose to leave.

Cardinal Hume has stated that individuals must be free to choose a spiritual director outside Opus Dei.

Dr Roche, whose allegations to *The Times* led to this newspaper's investigation, said he was delighted with Cardinal Hume's action. There were, however, other matters that had to be pursued. He set up a "committee for the investigation of Opus Dei".

Copies of Cardinal Hume's letter were issued to the press yesterday. And the cardinal is understood to have handed it in person to Father Philip Sherrington, regional councillor of Opus Dei, on Wednesday.

Yesterday Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, had and interview with Cardinal Hume on behalf of a constituent whose daughter had joined Opus Dei in London.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool, Mr Derek Worlock, said he had been consulted by Cardinal Hume in drawing up the statement of four principles contained in the letter. He would want the same principles to apply in his diocese, he said.

Cardinal Hume's letter and the press statement explaining it both emphasize that in this matter his jurisdiction is limited to the Westminster archdiocese, which covers most of London north of the Thames and the county of Hertfordshire. But the indications are that Mr Worlock's endorsement will be followed by others.

The *Times* published the results of an extensive inquiry into Opus Dei last January, recording several allegations against it, including that it had the nature of a sect, a "church within a church".

Opus Dei strongly denied that, saying that it was always anxious to work in harmony with the local bishops. It is established in about eighty countries, and was founded in Spain in 1928.

Opus Dei has been active in Britain since the 1940's and until this year its operation in London attracted no controversy. There is a long history of tensions between Opus Dei and the local Roman Catholic church in Oxford, however, and several Roman Catholic university chaplains have complained.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, Mr Anthony Emery, whose diocese includes the part of Oxford containing the main Opus Dei centre in the city, was said to be away yesterday, but likely to study Cardinal Hume's statement on his return.

Cardinal Hume's statement and letter do not deal with many of the matters raised by the article in *The Times* and the subsequent publicity. It said on his behalf that he has limited himself to his jurisdiction as a bishop with pastoral responsibility for his diocese. In that way any possibility of a conflict with the Vatican, where Opus Dei is well thought of, has been avoided.



Mr and Mrs Stephen Brown about to board an Air Europe jet at Gatwick yesterday for their honeymoon in Paris. The bride, formerly Sindy Smith, aged 23, an air stewardess, of Horley, Surrey, had her wish of an airborne reception fulfilled by the loan of the aircraft for the day.

Making the historic house earn its keep

By Tony Samstat

The English Tourist Board yesterday launched an exercise in attracting businessmen, preferably free-spending, to one of the country's "underused, underpublicized and underplayed" resources, the historic house.

The idea is that the nation's various mansions, castles and residential follies, browsing in their magnificent settings of park land like so many white elephants, be turned into working animals to earn their keep as venues for such occasions as business seminars and product launches.

The tourist board has published a book in which the attractions of more than seventy historic venues are displayed under the title, *Putting on the Style*.

Style was not lacking at yesterday's launch in the appropriately historic crush bar of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden. The guest of honour was Lady Spencer, the Princess of Wales's stepmother and a former member of the tourist board.

Lady Spencer, whose commercial flair in the running of her own mansion at Althorp is well known, said she hoped the inspirational surroundings on offer would help to make business seminars "go with a real swing".

Mr Michael Montagu, chairman of the tourist board, hastened to add that the intention was to use such houses for "appropriate occasions" - nothing vulgar.

One of his main objectives was to use voluntary workers to help houses to open during more accessible opening hours.

The tourist boards of Wales and Scotland are expected to follow England's example and put their great houses to commercial use.

Putting on the Style, (English Tourist Board, Hendon Road, Sutherland SK9 5XZ, £5.95, including postage and packing).

Lords reserve ruling on GLC fares

By Frances Gibb

The Lords of Appeal yesterday reserved judgment in the appeal by the Greater London Council over the legality of its cheaper fares scheme, launched in October. At the end of the seven-day hearing Lord Wilberforce, presiding, said on behalf of Lords Diplock, Keith of Kinkel, Scarman and Brandon of Oakbrook: "Their lordships will report their opinions to the House in due course."

The GLC is contesting a Court of Appeal ruling on November 10 which upheld a claim by Bromley Borough Council that the GLC acted unlawfully in levying an extra 6.1p rate to pay for a cut of a quarter in bus and Underground fares.

Bromley claims that the GLC had no power to do what it did, and that even if it did have the power, it exercised it unreasonably.

Making his closing speech on behalf of the GLC, Mr Robert Alexander, QC, said that if the Lords of Appeal dismissed the appeal, they would be interfering with what was "traditionally within the realm of a local authority's judgment", discretion as to the needs of its area.

If the cut in fares was within the council's powers, he said, they should be allowed to continue their policy. "If they cannot, they are going to be required to run London Transport in a way which they believe is contrary to London's needs."

Bromley had not suggested that there was any way other than a fares reduction to halt the decline in London Transport, which the GLC had considered a matter of urgency.

Surely a party which believes in this policy, has been elected on it, looked at it and decided to go ahead with it, should be given the opportunity to do so, and not be told by the courts: 'You should pursue some other policy more akin to that of the previous administration.'

The courts were being asked to interfere with the revenue-raising policy of a local authority which was responsible to an electorate and has to take decisions on what was right as a matter of social policy, he said.

They were also being asked to say that a local authority's transport policy was impermissible, despite its having been put to the electorate and voted on by the council.

FARMER IS FINED FOR CRUELTY

From a Correspondent, Doncaster

For the second time this year the owner of a small South Yorkshire farm has been sentenced by Doncaster magistrates for offences under the Protection of Animals Act, 1911.

Ellis Rafe Fox, aged 32, of Highfield Farm, Raywood, Bentley, Doncaster, was fined £100 yesterday on each of five charges after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to animals. He was ordered to pay £100 costs and was disqualified from keeping goats for 10 years. Mr Fox was given a conditional discharge on another charge.

The court heard that Mr Fox was convicted on several similar charges in May.

Workless worker escapes axe

Vauxhall Motors has axed 6,000 jobs in the past 12 months and has announced further white collar cuts. But for the past four years, it has had one employee doing next to nothing.

Mr Trevor Pinnington, a skilled fitter, occasionally helps out in the stationery store at Ellesmere Port. Most of the time, though, he just sits, or chats with other employees.

Mr Pinnington, aged 47, refused to join a five-year union strike in 1977 because it did not have the backing of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Since then others refused to work with him.

Former England boxer jailed

A former boxer was jailed yesterday for three years after pleading guilty to arson charges. Robert Davies, aged 32, who boxed for England in the 1976 Montreal Olympics and for three years as a professional, was frustrated at being unable to see his daughter Lisa, aged 19.

The Birkenhead Crown Court was told that he set fire, last May, to the house where Miss Debra Thompson, with whom he was living, was staying with her parents. Damage amounted to nearly £14,000.

Since the fire, Mr Davies has married Miss Thompson. Had he not, Judge Henry Lachs said, his sentence would have been longer.

Foot given new donkey jacket

Mr Michael Foot the Leader of the Opposition, has been sent a new coat, a navy blue donkey jacket, complete with leather shoulderpatches, by a group of building workers from Milford Haven, west Wales, who were angry that he was described as looking like an "unemployed navvy" at his Remembrance Day appearance at the Cenotaph last month.

In a letter to Mr Foot the men explained that they would be proud to see him wear the jacket on rallies and marches because it is standard dress for thousands of industrial workers in the area.

"The lads were annoyed at the way Mr Foot has been pilloried, with the suggestion that being unemployed was something to be ashamed of," Mr Frank Jones, local secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers engineering section, explained.

Butler must wait

An industrial tribunal to decide compensation for Mr David Chopping, the butler unfairly dismissed by the dowager Lady Dufferin and Ava, finished its hearing yesterday. The decision will not be announced for several weeks.



Double-heading with a head of steam on the Bluebell Line, Sussex.

Bond issue to help small railways short of cash

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

A new issue of bonds will soon be on sale to help to keep Britain's private railways going.

It will not, however, be for the main railway system which the Victorians built on the back of probably the biggest public stock issue ever, but for the 50 or so little lines such as the Bluebell in Sussex, and for some 400 other railway preservation projects around the country which tend to have a head of steam but little British Rail, little cash.

The scheme is part of a new National Railway Preservation Campaign launched by railway enthusiasts, headed by the Conservative MP Mr Robert Adley, in the House of Commons yesterday.

Its aim is to raise cash and put unemployed young people to work refurbishing and developing the little railways and old engines that still survive in the country where railways were born.

Most of the old engines that have not already been done up are lying in a scrapyard in Barry, South Wales, owned by Mr Dai Woodham. Whereas other scrap merchants who bought up Britain's thousands of old steam engines long ago cut them up for melting down, he kept them and now has more than a hundred, steadily rusting but a goldmine for enthusiasts. Over half could still be restored, a recent expert survey showed, but at a cost of between £50,000 and £100,000 each.

Launching the campaign yesterday, Mr Adley said: "Our aim is to raise support for Britain's preserved railways by concentrating on the four railway R's, rescue, restoration, running and repairs."

INQUIRY ON COMA MAN CONSIDERED

From Our Correspondent, Ludlow

Dr Gerard Vaughan, the Minister for Health, is reconsidering his decision not to hold a top-level ministerial inquiry into the case of Mr David Woodhouse, aged 27, of Fownhope, Hereford and Worcester, who has been in a coma for seven months since a routine appendicectomy operation went wrong at Hereford County Hospital.

Earlier this year Dr Vaughan refused demands from the Hereford and Worcester Area Health Authority, the Hereford County Hospital and the Hereford Community Health Council for a government inquiry after attempts to find out what had gone wrong were frustrated at the local level.

Last week Dr Magdy Ibrahim, the anaesthetist, made his first comment on the case when he said he would welcome an inquiry but had been told by the Medical Defence Union, the doctors' insurance body, to leave the matter in their hands.

The medical authorities in Hereford and Worcester say the MDU has advised its members not to cooperate with an inquiry.



"Don't be silly, Edith. If there was a plane out there we'd hear it."

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

New vote on Commons television

The House of Commons is to be given another opportunity to vote for the television coverage of its sittings (Our Political Staff writes).

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, will seek on December 15 to introduce a Bill to allow in the television cameras. The Government would find it difficult to ignore a vote in favour.

On January 30 last year there was a tied vote, 201 to 201, on a Bill introduced by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby.

With the casting vote of Mr Bernard Weatherill, The Deputy Speaker, the House for the first time favoured television coverage, but as a private member's Bill Mr Mitchell's measure proceeded no further.

Taping stops court case

A shoplifting case was stopped at Horseferry Road Magistrate's Court, London, yesterday after Mr Dennis Line, aged 48, a retired teacher, was spotted taping the proceedings from the public gallery. The magistrate made a forfeiture order under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

'Space Invaders' are repulsed

An experimental scheme to install "Space Invader" machines in four of Surrey's main libraries has been dropped by the county council after six months because the machines were shattering the peace of reading rooms and because the machines were not making as much money as expected.

The county council is now lending out computer game cassettes for people to use in their homes.

Raiders get £75,000 but miss £225,000

Armed raiders who ambushed a security van in south London yesterday stole £75,000 but left £225,000 behind. A shot was fired from a handgun during the raid, in Lewis Road, Mitcham, but no-one was hurt.

Gummen also stole £10,000 wages from the Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital, in Liverpool. They escaped after evading police road blocks.

Footballer for trial

Remi Moses, the Manchester United footballer, was ordered yesterday to trial at Manchester Crown Court on February 15 with Raymond Saunders, aged 19, on a charge of causing actual bodily harm.

Justice Bill aims to strengthen power of courts

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Courts will receive new powers to deal with offenders under the Criminal Justice Bill, published yesterday. But the Bill will not do enough to cut prison overcrowding, critics say. It changes the way young offenders are given custodial sentences and abolishes imprisonment for offenders aged under 21 and borstal training.

Under the Bill's provisions, which means courts will have more say about time served, courts will be able to make detention centre orders for from three weeks to four months and pass youth custody sentences of longer than four months.

All young offenders will be supervised on release and continue to be eligible for parole. When a fine, compensation or costs are awarded, against a juvenile, courts must generally order that parents or guardians should be responsible for paying. Community service orders will be made available for juvenile offenders aged 16. Fines are adjusted in the Bill to take account of changes in the value of money.

There has been controversy about a proposal, now in the Bill, to enable courts to remand accused persons in their absence, provided they give their consent and are legally represented. But the Bill lays down that can be done for no more than three consecutive weekly remands.

As stated by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, in the House of Commons on Wednesday, the Bill gives greater flexibility to powers for partial suspension of sentence. Mr Whitelaw intends to bring this into operation in the spring. Powers to release offenders up to six months early in emergency circumstances are being made permanent. That will enable Parliament to cut the prison population if other measures fail.

Mr Sidney Powell, secretary of the governing branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said that Mr Whitelaw's present action, though welcome, would not by itself reduce the prison population to a manageable level. The government wants to cut it from 44,000 to 32,000 with the help of an amnesty and other measures.

Blackmailer jailed for six years

A Chinese gangster who brought terror to a Midlands town was jailed for six years yesterday. Sing Lap Lai, aged 44, of Lovat Street, Stafford, formerly living in the West End of London for 20 years, was found guilty at Stafford Crown Court of demanding £150 from menaces from a businessman in Stafford.

During a four-day trial the court heard that Mr Lai was a member of the Wo On Lok branch of the Chinese triads, a secret criminal society run on similar lines to the Mafia. The jury was told that Mr Lai was head of blackmail in Stafford, setting up a protection racket to extort money from Chinese business families in the town.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution, said the defendant walked into the Rowley Street home of Mr Yuen Heung Lau, a restaurant owner, and demanded the triads' secret terror sign. He then demanded a £150 "loan".

Mr Lai told his terrified victim that the triads had hacked off the hand of one victim in Soho, London, and said the whole of the Chinese business community in Stafford faced the threat of extortion by the triads.

Mr Lai said he was in charge of the Stafford operations. The conversation was tape-recorded by police hiding in an upstairs bedroom, and Mr Lai was arrested. Detective Sergeant Brian Tunney said Mr Lai had received three prison sentences, totalling 10 years, in London for three separate offences connected with peddling hard drugs in the Gerrard Street area of Soho for the triads.

Farmers the truly rural guardians

From John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, Dulverton, Somerset

In swirling mist 1,200 ft up on Exmoor, Mr John Pugsley led the way across a heather-covered hillside.

"Conservationists say that once you plough up moorland like this it is gone for ever," he said. "But I remember as a young boy watching Italian prisoners of war, digging potatoes off this very moorland."

Mr Pugsley farms 1,100 acres of upland which supports about 1,300 sheep and 110 beef cattle. About 650 acres of that was identified by Lord Forchester in his 1978 report on Exmoor as "critical amenity moorland" which should be conserved in the national interest.

Far from being anti-conservationist, Mr Pugsley is proud of his immaculate house and garden, and anxious to see the traditional Exmoor way of life survive. But he insists that if farming is to remain viable farmers must be compensated under management agreements for not putting moorland under the plough.

Yesterday the National Farmers' Union launched a campaign intended to disprove the idea that farmers are destroying the countryside, and to counter some of the hostile comments made during the debate on the Wildlife and Countryside Bill.

While the union's president, Sir Richard Butler, was denouncing in London much of the criticism as "utter nonsense", journalists were being shown a leaflet of the tour of the West Country to see what farmers were doing for positive conservation.



Life-saver gets a gold medal

Mr Norman Stephenson, aged 81, with Laska the Samoyed who has been awarded a gold medal for protective instinct kept him alive when he lay unconscious after a fall down an embankment in saving his life last September. Her Bradford. She snuggled her body over him to keep him warm

throughout a night of torrential rain. The pair were found the next morning by two men who at first thought Laska was "protecting" a cat. Mr Stephenson was taken to hospital and recovered, but police said he would have died of hypothermia if it had not been for Laska's action. Mr Stephenson says he owes his life to Laska, whom he described as "a wonderful dog". Laska's gold medal for life-saving was one of the 1981 series of awards presented by the Pro-Dogs charity. Laska was herself "saved" in 1979 when she nearly pined to death after her elderly master died. The Samoyed breed rescue club placed her with a new owner.

Parents peevish as school strike goes on

A Christmas chill in Coventry

From Arthur Osman, Coventry

An air of peevishness apparent in Coventry, city centre yesterday, was marked on the faces of mothers trailing sullen children in their wake.

Their presence and that of the school children, accompanied by the teachers in the shopping precincts gave an illusion that Christmas had come early to the city. But with takings already affected by the 28,000 unemployed in the city, there was little activity around store fronts.

Many mothers seemed to have "gone to town" to escape the claustrophobic atmosphere at home; where the city's 60,000 school children have been for the past month because of the strike by caretakers, kitchen staff and cleaners at 150 schools and colleges.

Their action is the result of the summer referendum in which a seven to one majority of voters had the electorate opted for a cut-back in council spending.

As a result the Labour-controlled council has decided on £2m of cuts, of which £1.2m involves the dropping of services and the £250,000 of the figure is for cleaning and other matters in which the strikers are engaged.

New contracts offered to them by the council meant fewer hours and less money. The National Union of Public Employees dug in its heels and claimed the closure

of the schools as "a moral victory".

Yesterday a fresh effort was made to find a formula to end the damaging and dispiriting dispute. Both the council and NUPE agreed to a series of talks, and the Arbitration Service trying to agree terms of reference, to be followed by detailed discussions to solve the dispute.

But last night, after a day of talks about talks, it was not clear how far matters had progressed; whether there was any chance of schools reopening before Christmas or the month extending into the New Year and a winter of discontent.

Although an official figure is not available, many local people have said that the £250,000 saving called for has

already been achieved in terms of wages not paid and heating and lighting saved during the past month.

It has been suggested that any long continuation of the dispute would only be confirmation, if any was needed, that the affair was an extension of a bitter battle between moderates and leftists in the local Labour Party and a face-saving exercise for it and the union.

On Tuesday, according to Mr Arthur Taylor, Conservative leader on the council, his group will suggest that the strikers be declared redundant and the schools opened to the children. Cleaning and maintenance would be put out to private contractors, a suggestion already made by many parents who have refused to do the work themselves.

It is known that there is discussion among the strikers with many meals staff and some cleaners anxious to return, although the parents remain obdurate.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been asked by Mr John Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry South West, to use any powers he has to intervene and open the schools.

Parents have expressed growing concern about the situation from the very beginning, and the disruption to their children's schooling.

POP GROUP IN WALKOUT KEEPS FEE

A pop group which abandoned its performance after its lead singer was hit by a series of lawfully thrown stones at the audience was awarded, yesterday, the full fee for the show.

Mr Justice Mals said in the High Court that the group, Showaddywaddy, was entitled to the full fee for the show at the Alexandra Palace, London after the incident.

He dismissed with costs a claim by the concert organisers, Club 19-30 (Social) Ltd, of London, for the return of the group's £4,887 fee, which was paid in advance.

Sharp rise in court cases

By Our Legal Correspondent

A significant increase in the workload of virtually all courts in England and Wales is shown by the latest judicial statistics, published yesterday.

Last year more than 55,000 cases were committed for trial to the crown courts, which deal with serious crime, an increase of about 10 per cent on the previous year.

Defendants had to wait an average of more than 17 weeks for their trials. In London the waiting time was far longer, more than 23 weeks.

The statistics show that half of the defendants who pleaded not guilty were acquitted. Again the London

figure was well above the national average, about two-thirds of defendants who pleaded not guilty being acquitted.

The number of divorce petitions filed, at 177,415, is a new record, an increase of 6 per cent over 1979. The courts granted more than 153,000 final decrees, all but about 3,000 under the special "quickie" procedure.

The civil courts, comprising county courts and the High Court, showed the biggest increase in workload. Nearly 2,500,000 cases were started there, 15 per cent more than in 1979.

Judicial Statistics Annual Report 1980 Stationery Office £9.20

Law Report December 4 1981 House of Lords

Underpinning job not liable to VAT

ACT Construction Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners. Before Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill. [Speeches delivered December 3]

A method of underpinning dwelling houses consisting in the construction of an additional foundation to the affected building was not work of "repair or maintenance" under the relevant legislation, and was therefore zero-rated for value-added tax.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the Customs and Excise Commissioners from the Court of Appeal (Lord Goff, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Ackner) (The Times, October 10, 1981) [1981] 1 WLR 49] which had held in favour of ACT Construction Ltd, of Orpington, Kent, that extensive work carried out by the company after the 1976 drought was an alteration of the building which did not fall within the ordinary and natural meaning of "maintenance". Accordingly it fell to be zero-rated under item 2 of group 8 of schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1972 as updated by the Value Added Tax (Consultation) Order 1976 (SI 128).

The company were employed to carry out underpinning operations to houses of which the original foundations had been found to be defective and unacceptable under the current building regulations, had been found seriously wanting as a result of the drought of 1976. The company's method of underpinning consisted of the construction of an additional foundation to the affected building, but also entirely separate from whatever original foundations still existed. It followed that whatever remained of the original foundations were or had become, were left unaltered.

On August 8, 1978, a Value Added Tax Tribunal upheld the Customs and Excise Commissioners' assessment of the company to VAT on the basis that though the work done was a service in the course of the alteration of the building it was not zero-rated because it came within the exception "alteration" in item 2 of group 8 of schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1972 as updated by the Value Added Tax (Consultation) Order 1976 (SI 128).

But since he urged that the determination of that true below was wrongly made. The phrase was a single composite phrase "repair or maintenance".

Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Michael Belfort, QC and Mr David Pannick for the company.

Lord GOSKILL said that the appeal raised directly one short point of construction of group 8, but also raised, albeit indirectly, a second point of construction on which Lord Denning and Lord Justice Ackner expressed their views, albeit differently.

The provisions of schedule 4 both before and after amendment by the 1976 Order were concerned with zero-rating for the purposes of VAT. Group 8 of that schedule specified three kinds of work which qualified for zero-rating, with notes.

The commissioners assessed certain underpinning work done by the company to VAT in the sum of £1,072. The company appealed to the VAT Tribunal in London dismissed the appeal. Mr Justice Drake (Consolidation) Order 1976 (SI 128).

The simple short point of construction was whether the work was "repair or maintenance". If it was, it was not zero-rated but positive-rated.

Mr Brown argued that the meaning of "alteration" in item 2 in the context in which that word there appeared meant "structural alteration" and he urged that if that contention, rejected below, was correct, the company's submission on the true construction of the phrase "any work of repair or maintenance" in item 2a) but not much of the reasoning of the Master of the Rolls in the latter part of his judgment.

As for the second, the argument in the courts below appeared to have proceeded on the basis that the words "repair or maintenance" were used in the context of a building which was in a state of disrepair and that the work was done to bring it back to a state of repair.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Brandon that the words "repair or maintenance" were used in the context of a building which was in a state of disrepair and that the work was done to bring it back to a state of repair.

Like Lord Justice Brandon his Lordship found that that was not the true meaning of the words "repair or maintenance" in the context in which they were used. It was a new work, which was not done to bring the building back to a state of repair, but was done to alter the building in a way which was not "repair or maintenance".

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Citizen's duty to prevent breach of peace

Albert v Lavin. Before Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill. [Speeches delivered December 3]

Every citizen in whose presence a breach of the peace was being or reasonably appeared to be committed, had a duty to take reasonable steps to make the person who was breaking or about to break the peace refrain from doing so, and those reasonable steps in appropriate circumstances included detaining him against his will.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Albert, from a reserved judgment of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Goff, Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Ackner) (The Times, December 3, 1981) [1981] 2 WLR 1070.

The Divisional Court had dismissed an appeal by Mr Albert by case stated to the House of Lords from a reserved judgment of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Goff, Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Ackner) (The Times, December 3, 1981) [1981] 2 WLR 1070.

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TACTICS FOR EXPORT GOALS.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT MAN AT BOTH ENDS

When you're exporting you need people on your side with the right skills. They need to be in the right place, both at home and abroad.

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Take the home end first. Somewhere near you there's one of our specialist export offices. They deal with nothing but foreign trade. We have 33 dotted around the country - that's more than any other bank can offer.

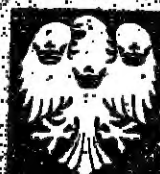
Every day they deal with export finance, ECGD policies, import regulations and all the ins and outs of exporting. They're well-qualified to help you.

At the foreign end, Barclays is also well-represented. Wherever you export, we've probably got a branch there. After all, we have the biggest overseas branch network of any British bank, with 2,000 branches in 80 countries.

Our people abroad make it their business to know everything about local trade, local regulations and local contacts. Our people at home will make it their business to get to know everything about yours.

Where do you start? We suggest you speak with your nearest Barclays branch manager.

We don't just offer all the export finance and banking services your operation needs - advice on markets, advice on import regulations, ECGD policies - all with fast, efficient documentation and payment. We'll bring them closer to you than any other British bank.



BARCLAYS
International

PEOPLE WHERE IT COUNTS

Nato welcomes Spanish initiative to join alliance

From Frederick Bonart, Brussels, Dec 3

Spain could be the sixteenth member of Nato by next spring. The way was opened last night when Dr Josep Lluís, the Nato Secretary-General, was handed a letter from Señor José Pedro Pérez-Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister, intimating that Spain was ready to be invited to join. Dr Lluís welcomed the Spanish initiative on behalf of the North Atlantic Council, which was rapidly convened.

The letter was delayed for 24 hours according to a senior diplomat at Nato, some of the member governments, in particular the Greeks and the Dutch, had to reassure their oppositions who felt that the inclusion of Spain at this stage would upset the East-West balance.

The council announced that foreign ministers will have the opportunity of making their views known at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council next Thursday when, as a next step, a protocol of accession will be drawn up and considered by ministers.

This protocol is then due to be formally signed during a plenary session of the council which will probably be attended by Mr Andreas Papanastasiou, the Greek Prime Minister, who is attending the meetings in his capacity as Defence Minister. The Spanish Foreign Minister is also being invited.

Thereafter the protocol will be sent to the other member countries for ratification in accordance with their individual national constitutional processes. It is hoped as Nato that this will be completed in time for Spanish ministers to be able to participate in the 1982 spring ministerial meetings.

The immediate importance of this move for Nato is political, according to senior diplomats here, as the admission of Spain to the Western alliance at this time demonstrates the Western will to maintain its ideas and values.

The practical details will only be negotiated at least; it is expected that Spain will wish to participate in the integrated military structure like all member countries except France. This is felt to be of special importance at present when there is doubt about the Greek position.

The Spanish Navy and Air Force would be the country's main contribution to Nato. With their modern equipment and training, they would fit in well with other allied forces and have an important role to play in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, particularly in anti-submarine operations which continue in peace and war.

Nato would then have forces in the existing Iberian Atlantic Command, under the Supreme Commander Atlantic, and others in a possible Western Mediterranean Command under the Southern European Command in Naples.

For geographical reasons there is a likelihood to be an immediate task for the Spanish Army although, following the Portuguese example, it could remain a brigaded division for operations in Europe from permanent bases in Spain.

Russia sees Military and strategic entry as inevitable balance of forces

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Dec 3

The Russians have campaigned long and hard against Spanish membership of Nato, but for some time have regarded the country's participation in the organisation as inevitable.

Moscow has given Madrid several blunt warnings over the issue. In September the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Madrid handed over a Note which said Spanish membership affected the interests of the Soviet Union and wide-ranging security interests in Europe and beyond.

The Note said Spain's membership in an alliance, which the Russians have repeatedly denounced as an aggressive block, would increase international tension. The Note was rejected as interference in Spanish affairs.

On Monday *Pravda* said the decision to join Nato was being taken against the wishes of millions of Spaniards. It said membership would "lead to a heightening of tension on the Continent and in the world, to a spiralling of the arms race."

Since Moscow reestablished diplomatic relations with Madrid in 1977 a number of incidents have strained the new relationship. Several Soviet diplomats have been expelled for spying and the Russians have been accused of supporting the Basque separatist group ETA.

Moscow has not been able to call on the support of the Spanish Communist Party, which has taken a defiant stand on several important ideological issues and is one of the leaders of the Euro-communist movement.

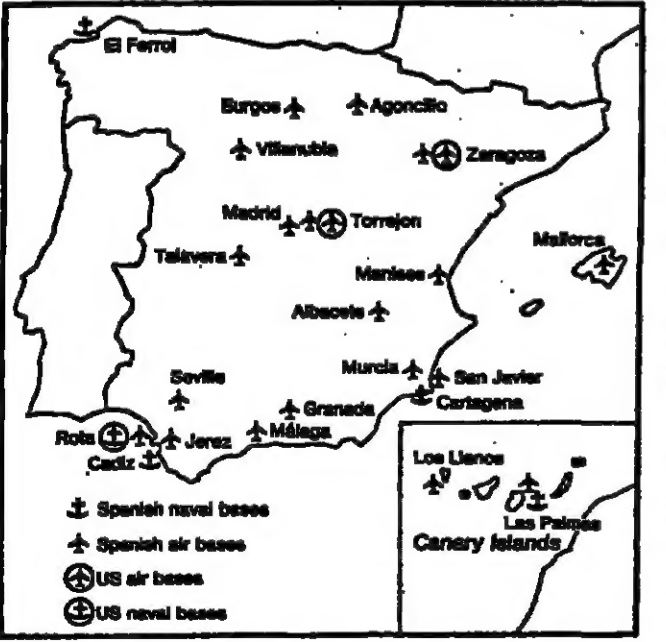
In effect, however, the Russians have long regarded Spain as an integral part of the Western defensive block because of its bilateral defence treaty with the United States.

Spain is divided into nine military districts which are garrisoned by the territorial defence forces of the Army. They are responsible for the defence of that district, while the spearhead of any operations against a national enemy either at home or abroad is formed by the intervention forces which are formed into a corps with three divisions, one armoured, one mechanised and one simply motorised with out armoured vehicles.

Spain has a foreign legion with three regiments which are all-regimental all-Spanish (unlike the French Foreign Legion which as everyone knows is full of other nationalities who are trying to forget).

The foreign legionnaires form a high proportion of the 19,000 troops which according to *The Military Balance*, are still stationed at Ceuta and Melilla on the Moroccan coast. Nearly 6,000 other troops are in the Canary Islands at any one time and 19,000 more are in the Canary Islands.

American aid, in return for military basing rights, has helped Spain to bring its



Suspicion of foreign alliances harks back to Franco era

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Dec 3

Señor Adolfo Suárez, the former Prime Minister, whose personal background gave him an instinctive sense of how many ordinary Spaniards feel, always postponed taking the "inevitable" decision on joining Nato.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the present Prime Minister, took the realistic view that Spain's geography and *de facto* links with the Western alliance through the late General Franco's bilateral treaty with the United States required full integration of Spanish democracy into Nato. He declared it the very day he presented his candidature as Prime Minister to Parliament nine months ago.

But the change in Spain's foreign and defence policies should not be underrated however much diplomats in Brussels will refer in coming weeks to "Spain finding its rightful place in the defence alliance of the Western democracies."

General Franco did not invent Spanish isolation, he exploited it essentially to save his own regime. Spain's armies and navy have not fought a single war to defend their homeland since Napoleonic times. Though in the First and

Second World War Spaniards privately sympathised with one or the other side they did not undergo the profound forging process of a national war effort.

The result, and this has overshadowed the debate as the Calvo Sotelo Government steered the Nato issue through Parliament this autumn, is a public opinion with a strong hankering for not becoming "involved in foreign alliances."

Some observers believe that the Spanish Socialist Party leaders, uncomfortable over their objective to Spanish entry, anticipated that opposing the Government over Nato would help to prepare the party's acceptance by sections of the nationalist lower middle classes at the next general election.

The ordinary Spaniard's ignorance about Nato, coupled with the way the Americans exploited the facilities accorded them by Franco's 1953 Treaty of Friendship, has created popular suspicion. This explains why the Government refused to agree to opposition demands for a referendum before joining. It will also complicate Spain's effectiveness in Nato.



Closed city: Israeli settlers guard the entrance to the town of Yamit, in Sinai, which is due to be handed over to Egypt next April, in protest against the slow pace of negotiations over their compensation.

Text of US-Israel strategic accord

Washington—Here is the official English text of the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States and the Government of Israel on strategic cooperation," signed in Washington on November 30.

PREAMBLE

"This memorandum of understanding reaffirms the common bonds of friendship between the United States and Israel, and the mutual security relationship that exists between the two nations. The parties recognize the need to enhance strategic cooperation to deter all threats from the Soviet Union to the region.

"Noting the long-standing and fruitful cooperation for mutual security that has developed between the two countries, the parties have decided to establish a framework for continued consultation and cooperation to enhance their national security by deterring such threats to the whole region.

"The parties have reached the following agreement in order to achieve the above ends:

ARTICLE I

"United States-Israel strategic cooperation, as set forth in this memorandum, is designed to deter the threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union or Soviet-controlled states within the region, introduced into the region. It has the following broad purposes:

A. To enable the parties to act cooperatively and jointly in order to deal with the above mentioned threat.

B. To provide each other with military assistance for operations of their forces in the area that may be required to cope with such threat.

C. To enhance the strategic cooperation between the parties in order to prevent the above mentioned threat to the security of the region.

ARTICLE II

"1. The fields in which strategic cooperation will be carried out to prevent the above mentioned threat to the security of the region include:

A. Military cooperation between the parties, as may be agreed by the parties.

B. Joint military exercises, including naval and air exercises in the Mediterranean Sea, as agreed upon by the parties.

C. Cooperation for the establishment of joint readiness activities, as may be agreed by the parties.

D. Other areas within the basic scope and purpose of this agreement, as may be jointly agreed.

2. Details of activities within these fields of cooperation shall be worked out by the parties in accordance with the provisions of Article III below. The cooperation shall include, as appropriate, planning, preparations, and exercises.

ARTICLE III

"Nothing in this memorandum shall be considered as derogating from previous agreements and understandings between the parties.

ARTICLE IV

"The parties share the understanding that the memorandum is intended to or shall in any way prejudice the rights and obligations which devolve or may devolve upon either government under the Charter of the United Nations or under international law. The parties reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their commitment to the maintenance of international peace with all countries in the region.

ARTICLE V

"This memorandum shall enter into force upon exchange of ratifications. The ratification procedures have been completed by the parties. If either party considers it necessary to terminate this memorandum, it may do so by notifying the other party six months in advance of the effective date of termination.

ARTICLE VI

"Nothing in this memorandum shall be considered as derogating from previous agreements and understandings between the parties.

ARTICLE VII

"The parties share the understanding that the memorandum is intended to or shall in any way prejudice the rights and obligations which devolve or may devolve upon either government under the Charter of the United Nations or under international law. The parties reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their commitment to the maintenance of international peace with all countries in the region.

Doubts remain over European reaction to statement on Sinai

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Dec 3

The Israeli and American Governments might issue the text of their joint statement about the Sinai peace-keeping force which is intended as a compromise to avert a threatened Israeli veto on the participation of contingents from four European nations.

Earlier in the day the text had been unanimously approved at a special session of the Israeli Cabinet. It will now be relayed by Israeli ambassadors to the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands.

According to today's *Canal* decision the four EEC Governments will be requested to confirm the acceptance of the principles detailed in the statement.

There was "uncertainty" about how the European countries would react. But one European diplomat in Tel Aviv emphasized that the future of European participation would depend on the type of acceptance which Israel is looking for. "The bill is still very much up in the air," he said.

As expected, the statement emphasized that the basis of participation in the multinational force is a peace treaty originating in the Camp David accord and the protocol signed this summer by Egypt and Israel.

The text notes that none of the four European countries have stratched political conditions to their participation. It adds that there can be "no derogation or reservations" from the terms of the treaty and protocol by any other participating force.

The joint statement continues that the United States understands Israeli concern at the statements made by the Europeans and accordingly has asked the Europeans to stand on the future of the peace process.

Settlers protest with arson

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Dec 3

Businessmen in the Sinai town of Yamit last night burnt five buildings, the first in a series of protests against the Government's offer of compensation which they said was "inadequate."

The protesters also welded three barriers to the fenced-in desert town and attached signs reading: "This is only the beginning." Approaches to the town were blocked with barbed wire and iron spikes were driven into the road.

However, the blockade was not complete. People were able to enter or leave the town on foot through a gap in the fence. Supplies were delivered that way and an orchestra searched the town from Negev and played from a watchtower.

The anger erupted yesterday after a meeting in Jerusalem at which Mr Simcha Eliashiv, a Deputy Prime Minister, who offered an aggregate of \$7m for 100 businessmen. The businessmen demanded twice as much. The Government has already reached an agreement to pay \$2m to 225 residents for their homes.

The police surrounded the town today but took no action to break the obstruction. Militant residents forecast a confrontation and said they were trying to get the town into a state of emergency.

COMPOSER DIES

Harold Kay, a composer and arranger famous for his ballad scores and orchestration of Broadway shows, died at Danbury Hospital, Connecticut, of heart failure. He was 62.

Infant black homeland is born to an unpromising future

From Michael McNulty, Bisha, Ciskei, Dec 3

A dust-blown hilltop, on which perch a half-finished 20,000-seat stadium and an incomplete hangar-like parliament building, are all that exist of Bisha, capital of Ciskei, which becomes "independent" at midnight with the firing of a 101-gun salute, and the chiming of church bells.

The substantial quality of the capital city says much about Ciskei, an artificially created mini-state of some 3,200 square miles. Most of its population (a dispersed concept in itself) probably live outside its frontiers, which do not yet exist as they are still being negotiated with the South African government.

Ciskei is the fourth of the black "tribe" homelands, a status recognized nowhere else in the world. In Pretoria it is seen as a further step towards the apartheid goal of carving 10 separate black "nations" out of 13 per cent of South Africa's land.

As an economic unit Ciskei is pitifully ill-equipped for independence of any kind. It has no natural resources, cannot feed itself, and is dependent on South African aid for four-fifths of its government revenue. Forty per cent of the male labour force work as migrant labourers outside its

frontiers, and their wage earnings constitute 65 per cent of national income.

Even on the ethnic argument used by the South Africans to justify "separate development," Ciskei is a dubious concept. Its inhabitants are indistinguishable from the Khoi-speaking people of Transvaal, the heart of the homelands to accept Ciskei. Moreover, Ciskei's ruler, Masema, has denounced Ciskei's independence as a device to split the Khoi nation.

To make any sense at all as an economic entity, Ciskei would, as a minimum, have to include the nearby industrial centre of East London, Berlin and King William's Town, where most Ciskeians work. All these remain in white hands. Although on the coast, Ciskei has no port.

Chief Lennox Sebe, the Chief Minister of Ciskei, and soon to be its new President, believed he had a firm promise from Pretoria that King William's Town or East London would be incorporated into Ciskei and serve as its capital. But in the face of implacable opposition from the town's white inhabitants, the South Africans were back on earlier pledges. Hence the hurried construction work at nearby Bisha.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Flags fly at half mast in Quebec

Canada's enduring dream of having its own constitution was well on its way to realization following the overwhelming approval of the enabling resolution by the House of Commons (John Best writes from Ottawa).

But while most Canadians celebrated Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, ordered the provincial flag—featuring the fleur-de-lis—lowered on all provincial buildings until Monday "as a symbol of mourning and protest" after the Commons voted 246 to 24 for a measure to bring home the constitution from Britain with some new features added.

The constitutional resolution is now in the Senate, where debate is expected to last a few days, but where, as in the Commons, the government's Liberal majority assures its passage. After that, possibly some time next week, it will be sent to Westminster.

Falkland talks in Geneva

Talks on the future of the Falkland Islands are to be held between Britain and Argentina in Geneva, on December 18 and 19.

A joint communiqué published in London and Buenos Aires said the talks would be attended by two representatives from the Falklands. Last September, the islanders voted overwhelmingly in favour of remaining British.

During earlier talks, British officials wanted a "peacefully" negotiated, but a Foreign Office spokesman explained yesterday that the wishes of the islanders remained "paramount."

EEC control on chemicals agreed

Brussels—A European Community regulation aimed at preventing accidents on the scale of the Flixborough explosion, which was caused by environmental factors, has been agreed by ministers here. The so-called "Seveso directive" covers 173 chemical substances of which 26—such as bromine, ammonia and hydrogen—are considered particularly dangerous.

Creating the competent authorities to enforce the new directive is expected to take about another 18 months. The authorities will have to monitor the installation of any new plant involved in the use of the chemicals and to ensure advance consultation.

Rubbish piles up in Manhattan

New York—The Waldorf Astoria Hotel is storing rubbish in the hotel's basement. Rubbish is piling up on the pavement where the pile is 4ft high and over 50ft long. Shiny black plastic bags creating a mysterious new art form are strewn along many streets in midtown Manhattan and in Chinatown. Soggy cardboard cartons are overflowing with restaurant scrapings all over the city.

Murdered Chinese 'rehabilitated'

Peking—Chinese Communist Party members from Hebei province, killed or persecuted during the Cultural Revolution after accusations that they were linked with a cooperation agreement between the party and the Kuomintang, have been officially rehabilitated.

Mao's former political secretary, Chen Boda, was jailed last January for having undertaken a campaign against the East Hebei party in which 2,955 people lost their lives.

Reagan unworried by Libyan assassins

Washington—President Reagan believes it is possible that Libya may be sending gunmen to assassinate him but he is not very concerned about it. He told reporters: "I think in view of the record, you can't dismiss them out of hand, but they're not going to change my life much."

William Holden's will

Los Angeles—William Holden, the film actor, who died last month, left \$250,000 (£125,000) to his longtime companion, Stefanie Powers, the actress, according to details made public here. Miss Powers aged 39, comes in the television series, *Hart to Hart* with Robert Wagner whose wife, Natalie Wood, drowned last Sunday.

Afghanistan denial

Islamabad—As the death toll from the helicopter attack on a Pakistan border post in Baluchistan has risen to seven, Afghanistan "categorically" denied responsibility.

S Africa hunger strike

Pretoria—Visiting privileges on Robben Island, where most of South Africa's political prisoners are held, have been withdrawn because of a hunger strike.

Solidarity heads try to avoid clash with state

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 3

The leaders of Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union movement, held emergency talks outside Warsaw today amid signs that many of its regional chiefs want to back away from a head-on clash with the Government.

The meeting was called as a first angry response to a police raid on the Warsaw branch of the union's academy yesterday morning intended to end a students' sit-in. The raid was described by Solidarity today as brutal and several activists in the Warsaw branch, as a result of the action, have questioned the Government's sincerity in seeking a power-sharing arrangement with Solidarity.

But the praesidium meeting of the union's regional heads in Radom, outside Warsaw, had, by most accounts, a rather moderate tone. While Warsaw Solidarity leaders apparently argued for a hard line against the Government — the 500,000 members of the Warsaw chapter are still on strike — other regions wanted to water down the union response.

Above all Mr Lech Walesa, head of the whole organization, repeatedly emphasized that the popular anger at the raid should be channelled into gaining greater concessions in talks with the Government rather than a renewed bout of strike action.

Addressing a crowd of 2,000 people in Warsaw last night, Mr Walesa said: "The struggle is only beginning today, but that is why it is required of us that we should fight with true determination and foresight. We cannot let our nerves get the better of us although that's what

British aid helps Poles left out in the cold

A large lorry carrying 14,000 bars of British soap and an assortment of food should this weekend be driving into a small Polish town near Poznan (Roger Boyes writes).

The consignment comes by courtesy of the Ockendon Venture, a British charity, which has been collaborating with Ockendon's rotary club to gather food, drugs, soap and other items needed by the Poles.

Polish lorries, which have brought exports to Britain, deliver the British aid on return to Poland and take it to clinics and children's hospitals.

It is difficult to estimate what the aid is costing, but even charity officials admit it is only a drop in the ocean.

The shops are particularly bare outside Warsaw, industry trial towns like Lodz are having great problems securing meat, vegetables and fruit — and it is easy to forget that parts of Poland once ranked as the bread basket of Europe.

Officials argue, with some justification, that the main problems do not actually lie in production, shortfalls in the country had a particularly good harvest this year — but rather are caused by panic buying.

Hoarding is a traditional problem in Poland but the current shortages are also caused by poor distribution and the country's precarious financial standing.

The rich can buy goods on the black market and the workers can make use of factory canteens, but the poor, the pensioners and the sick are left out in the cold. It is these people whom the Western charities are trying to cater for.

End to rapprochement that never was

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 3

Is the honeymoon between President Mitterrand and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, already over, only a couple of months ago after the smiles of the Franco-British summit in London? The question is the very negative verdict on Britain expressed by M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, in an interview with *Le Monde* this week.

Asked whether the attempt at a Franco-British rapprochement in the first weeks of Mitterrand's term of office had stopped short, the minister replied: "No, the attempt has not stopped short. But the rapprochement has not taken place. This confirms the very considerable difficulties which Britain is experiencing. There is no rapprochement between her and anyone."

He had seen Lord Carrington once a week on average, and was in touch with him by telephone or otherwise every other day. "But there is no rapprochement because Britain is going through an extremely serious crisis and is taking up specific attitudes in European affairs. At the European Council meeting, the British thesis was defended by nobody," he added.

The contrast is striking between this disillusioned statement and the fulsome terms in which he referred to Britain when he met Lord Carrington in Paris last May immediately after the Socialist Government came to office.

"Through my life," he said, "I have had close relations with Britain, a country for which I have great admiration. Britain and France have all sorts of fundamental things in common."

Although the new French Government disclaimed any intention of substituting a Franco-British privileged relationship for the Franco-German entente, which

inevitably suffered from the end of the personal friendship between Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, and President Giscard d'Estaing, that the talk of the two before the summer.

The good personal rapport which President Mitterrand succeeded in establishing from the start with Mrs Thatcher was surprising, but understandable. There could be no misunderstanding between them about their respective political convictions, and they both had a preference for plain speaking.

But this distinct improvement in the climate of personal relations at the summit, which was genuine, did not suffice to dispose of the substantial and enduring conflict between the two countries over the shape and role of the European Community.

As he showed in London last week, a left-wing President can prove just as determined as his right-wing predecessor in championing the interests of French taxpayers and farmers, big and small, as hostile to a limitation of expenditure on agriculture by the Community, and up a long-term system of compensation for Britain's budget contribution, and as ready to try to isolate the British from their other European partners — though not so successfully as M Cheysson claimed in the *Le Monde* interview.

Underlying M Cheysson's insistence on Britain's economic difficulties is his reasoning that these will compel Mrs Thatcher, for electoral reasons, to compromise on Britain's budget demands before France is itself confronted with the moment of truth in the structural reorganisation of its agriculture, which a meaningful reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and a reduction of its cost inevitably entails.

US mayors attack Reagan's policies

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Dec 3

Mayors of American cities, meeting in outraged conclave in Detroit, have sent urgent signals to the President saying that his policies are threatening immediate civic breakdown.

The protests are coming from both Republicans and Democrats, and have been particularly vigorous from one who ran on both tickets, Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York. He bitterly attacked the President's policies, called the new federalism "a sham and a charade" and said that the withdrawal of the government from the needs of the cities was a systematic campaign of abandonment.

The consequences, according to the newly-elected mayor, would be "the further decay of our cities, the poor growing poorer, a decline in the education of our population and a more lonely and poorly serviced elderly."

Mr Koch was speaking at the annual convention of the National League of Cities, a gathering of officials from small and medium-sized cities, not usually graced by the presence of such important metropolitan figures as him. But he told *The New York Times*, in an interview on the way there, that he intends to make more such forays, particularly as the 1982 congressional elections draw close.

His speech was in distinct contrast to his approach during the mayoral elections here, when he told voters that Mr Reagan had a mandate from the voters last November to cut taxes and spending.

Other expressions of anxiety — in particular over proposals from Mr David Stockman, the Budget Director, to kill the capital aid programme for cities, came from other hard-pressed municipalities.

Mr Stockman's plan was unofficially revealed on Monday. It would do away with all new spending after 1983 for two major programmes amounting currently to \$4,200m (about £2,600m) and divided among 2,850 cities and towns across the country.

BLOOD SENT BY PIGEON POST

Paris. — Two French hospitals have solved their problem of how to send blood samples for analysis to a laboratory 11 miles away as rapidly as possible. They are using carrier pigeons.

A team of 25 pigeons has been organized for the 15-minute flight between the two hospitals at Granville and the laboratory at Avranches, northern France.



Weinberger in Rabat King Hassan plays the American card

From Godfrey Morrison, Rabat, Dec 3

The visit to Morocco today by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, is proof that King Hassan, the American card, has been closed down and three senior members, including their leader, Mr Abderrahim Bourbid, have been detained.

By providing his armed forces with new sophisticated weapons, the Americans may enable him to regain the initiative in the desert war against the Polisario guerrillas, but they cannot provide him with what he and his country needs most — rain.

The war against the Polisario Front, which wants to make the former Spanish Sahara an independent state, has received considerable publicity, as have the increasing international pressures on Morocco at the United Nations and in the Organisation of African Unity to reach a political settlement.

But if anything, the war, which is seen by Moroccans of almost every political complexion as a holy national cause to hold up to what they see as the historically part of Morocco, cements national unity.

The country's dire economic plight is quite another matter. It usually rains here in the winter and early spring, but rainfall produced a grain harvest of about two million tonnes, half the average crop.

Peasants deprived of their livelihood flocked to the towns, particularly Casablanca, the country's commercial capital, which is now surrounded by shanty towns.

In June, a rise in basic food prices caused a labour dispute and violence in which several hundred people are believed to have died.

This autumn, there was virtually no rain in October and November to allow the planting of crops and even early December is brilliant and cloudless.

In Casablanca estimates are that about 75 per cent of the adult males are unemployed or underemployed in part-time jobs such as car-minders or newspaper sellers. A Western diplomat said: "Casablanca is an enormous tinder box which would not require much to make it burst into flames."

In the countryside the situation continues to deteriorate with drinking water prices increasing and the deepening drought and lack of feed resulting in increased slaughter of herds and an exodus to the towns. Even in Rabat.

Compared to most Arab and African countries, Morocco has an open political and economic system, but the

growing problems have led to measures against the Socialist opposition party, the USFP. Its newspaper, *Al-Bayane*, has been closed down and three senior members, including their leader, Mr Abderrahim Bourbid, have been detained.

Their offence was criticism of the King for what they saw as excessive concessions on the Sahara issue at the OAU. He has promised a referendum in the territory and on this issue the Socialist, like the small Communist party, are plus *royaliste que le roi*.

King Hassan's dispute with the Socialists has complicated his relations with France, Morocco's traditional supporter and main trading partner. The French Socialist Party has demanded that their Moroccan counterparts should be released.

Even though this demand, which was seen here as unacceptable interference in Moroccan domestic affairs, did not come from President Mitterrand, it has inevitably cooled relations with his Government and has led to some unease among the 50,000 French people living here, the largest French community outside France.

The Moroccan Government has watched this week's cordial visit by President Mitterrand to Algeria with something less than enthusiasm. Morocco broke off diplomatic relations with Algiers more than five years ago because of the Algerians' support for the Polisario Front, and relations are still cool.

It is against this background that President Reagan's Administration has stepped into the scene. There can be few geographical areas where the American Administration's forthright policy of identifying friend and foe is more evident than in North Africa.

The American oil company Exxon, with Washington's encouragement, has pulled out of Libya, while Washington has shown solidarity with Egypt and Sudan through the "Bright Star" joint military manoeuvres.

Mr Weinberger's visit is only one of a series. Mr Francis West, the Assistant Defence Secretary, has been here twice in the last month, pledging continued support for King Hassan, the war against the Polisario guerrillas.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, is due here in a couple of weeks; General Vernon Walters, President Reagan's special roving envoy, has been here three times; and King Hassan is expected to visit Washington next month.

Finally, Admiral Bobby Inman, the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, called on the King in February.

The war against the Polisario guerrillas is not going too well. Moroccan troops are fighting a defensive campaign.

After several months' lull the war flared up in October when the Polisario guerrillas took the outpost of Guelta Zemmur in a battle during which they shot down four Moroccan aircraft.

ECEVIT JAIL TERM STARTS

From Suzan Fieck, Ankara, Dec 3

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Prime Minister of Turkey, today began serving a four-months prison sentence for having defied a military ban on political activities. He said that he would "rather be a free prisoner than a prisoner living outside jail".

Mr Ecevit had led the now defunct Republican People's Party. His offence was having handed foreign reporters in Ankara a letter criticising the National Security Council's decision to close down political parties. He told reporters today: "There is a price to pay for freedom. What I am paying is a very small price."

Indian judicial system on verge of breakdown

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Dec 3

A man who has spent 30 years in jail awaiting trial has been released on the orders of the high court in Patna, in the state of Bihar, Eastern India.

Although his experience is extreme, it is an indicator of the desperate condition of the Indian judicial and penal system. Tens of thousands of people wait in prison for years with little hope of their cases coming to court.

An Indian judge has said that "our legal system is on the verge of collapse, living on borrowed time."

The case of the 30-year detainee was unearched by a civil liberties group. The man, Mr Ram Chandra, was arrested in March 1952 for attempted murder, but the case records were later

missing. The lawyer who sought his release said in court this week that the authorities had shown "calious indifference."

It has been estimated that about 100,000 people are in jail awaiting trial in India. The sheer pressure of numbers, incompetence, a harassed bureaucracy and the extraordinary length of legal proceedings has condemned many to hopeless years.

There have been large-scale releases of people who have spent more time in prison than the maximum sentences that might have been imposed for their alleged offences, but the problem remains.

Some people stay in jail because they are too poor to raise bail.

Schmidt counters peace lobby

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, having a word in the ear of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, in the Bundestag yesterday.

Herr Schmidt appealed to the so-called peace movement not to undermine the Soviet-American talks on limiting European nuclear weapons that opened in Geneva this week (Our Foreign

Staff writes). In a speech on President Brezhnev's visit to Bonn last week, Herr Schmidt emphasized the need for an East-West security partnership based on a balance of forces. He is to meet Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, next Friday. Those who accept military inferiority may reach a position where they beg in vain for negotiations, he said.

Haig journey reflects concern over Caribbean

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, Dec 3

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, reflecting the Reagan Administration's revived interest in the Caribbean, was due to deliver a keynote address today to the Assembly of the Organization of American States meeting in the Caribbean island of St Lucia.

The arrival of such a heavyweight figure in a region traditionally regarded as an American sphere of influence underlines America's growing concern about Cuban activities in the Caribbean and Central America and the threat of internal instability in an area of real strategic importance to the United States. But if, as is widely expected, Mr Haig's main interest is the ideological threat to the region, he risks antagonizing the Caribbean as much as soothing it.

As American interest in the region has revived, a serious difference of perception has opened up between Washington and regional capitals about development strategy. While Washington has emphasized security and private sector investment, the Commonwealth islands have insisted that the danger lies in the structural economic problems of their tiny economies.

Since 1973, energy costs have increased tenfold, investment has been restricted, productivity has been falling, wage demands have risen along with inflation and export markets have become more difficult. All the Caribbean's traditional exports,

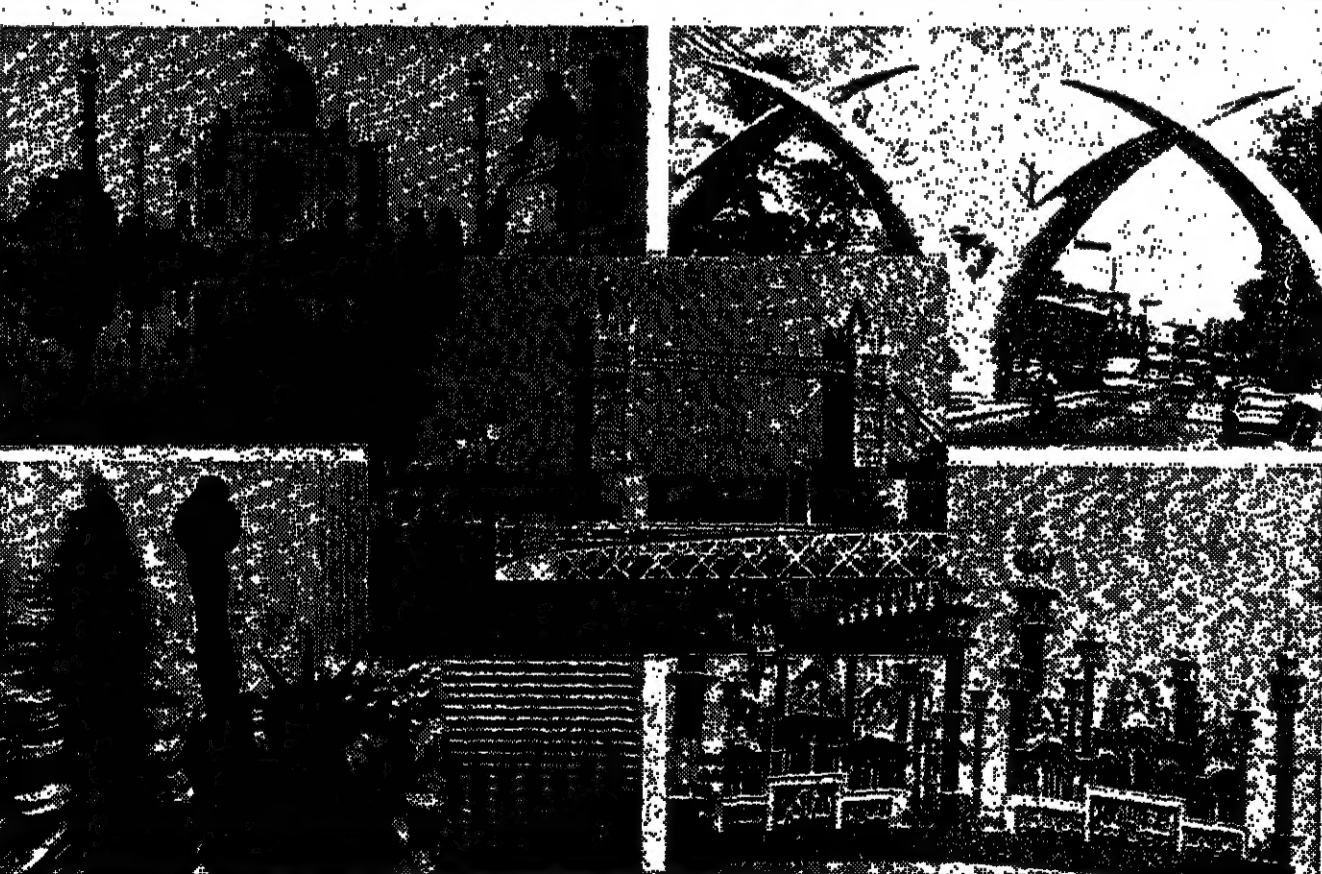
from bauxite to bananas, have been damaged by recession, low prices and diminishing outlets.

Dr Kennedy Simmonds, the Premier of St Kitts-Nevis, told the fifth Caribbean Conference on Trade, Investment and Development in Miami last week: "The problems of the Caribbean are economic, not ideological. They cannot be solved by guns or bullets. They can be solved by investment, employment, development assistance, education and communication."

Private sector initiatives, Dr Simmonds argued, must be part of a wider programme that helps public sector development and expansion of infrastructure too. There is striking agreement on that, even across the ideological dividing lines.

Mr Unison Whiteman, the Foreign Minister of the People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada, says he will be trying to force the St Lucia conference to face the real issues of the region which he defines as poverty, unemployment, low commodity prices and the concept of the Caribbean as a zone of peace, adopted by the OAS in 1979.

Scepticism about the American obsession with ideology extends to basin initiatives sponsored by the United States with Canada, Mexico and Venezuela. It is aimed at channelling development aid into the region



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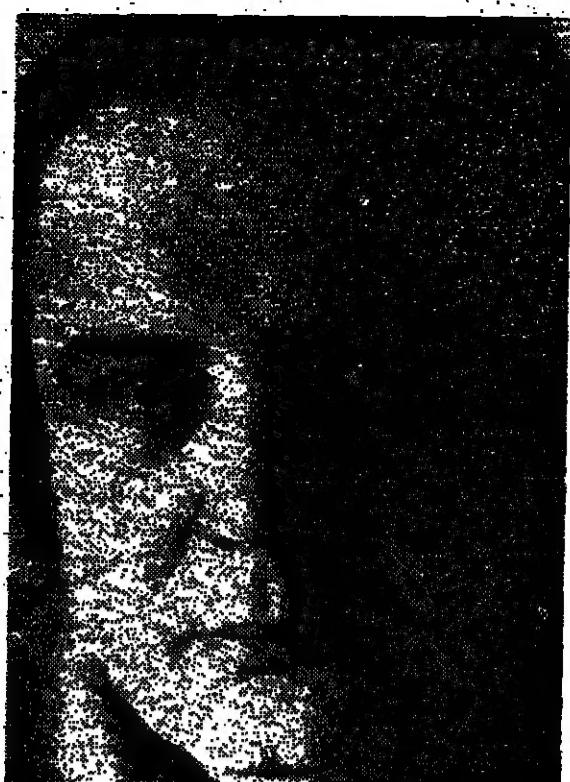
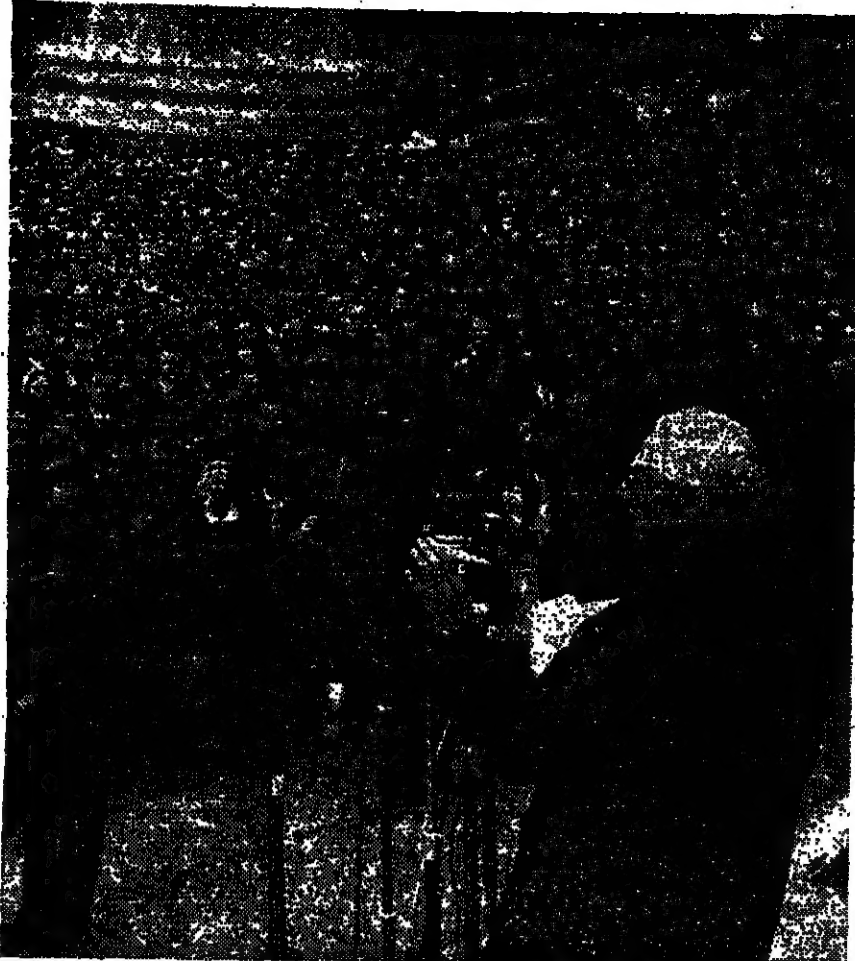
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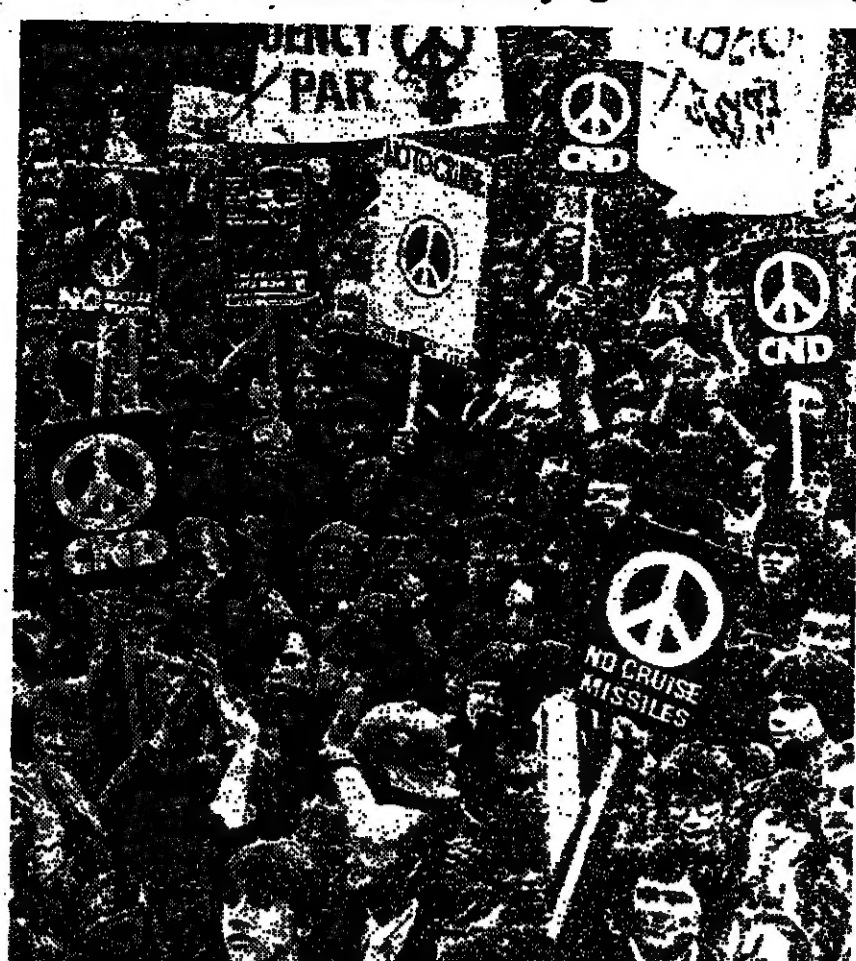
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In the week that the Americans and Russians begin talks about arms reductions, Vladimir Bukovsky gives a warning to the West



Since Vladimir Bukovsky was expelled from the Soviet Union, he has tried to alert the west to the true nature of the Russian regime. Here he argues that Western nuclear disarmament movements like that led by Bertrand Russell in the fifties (left) and the revival of CND in the eighties (right) are a naive response to concerted Soviet propaganda.



The Soviet use of 'peace'

1916
Soldiers on the Russian Front urged by the Communists to desert in their 100,000s for a "just peace without annexations", prolonging the First World War for another year, causing thousands of deaths on the Western Front.

1920
The wish for peace at any price brings to an end the Russian Civil War, which had caused the deaths of 20 million, leaving the communists in control.

1939
In the name of preserving peace, the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was signed, allowing the Soviet Union and Germany to divide Poland between them. Britain and France condemned by the Soviet Union for declaring war on Germany. Communists in the West encouraged to sabotage war efforts.

1940
The fall of France welcomed by French communist leaders who, using German presses, urge workers to undermine resistance.

1941
Tito's call for resistance against German occupation of Yugoslavia waits until the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

1945
Peace in Europe amounts to surrendering a dozen countries to Soviet rule. Nato condemned as "very aggressive".

1950s
A rise in the campaign against nuclear weapons. The Stockholm Appeal and the World Peace Council organized, financed and conducted from Moscow through the "Peace Fund".

1960s
Poor performance of the Soviet economy causes the Soviet Union to launch a "détente" policy to thaw the cold war and lift pressure to spend on arms.



1971
Brezhnev launches a "peace programme", agreeing to a slowdown in arms spending if various demands met.

1975
The Helsinki Agreement confirms the "détente" plan. It concedes the post-war frontiers in Europe, including the division of Germany, increases economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. (The Kama truck factory, built by the Americans, has begun making military trucks used in Afghanistan.)

1979
Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

1980/81
New campaigns for nuclear disarmament across western Europe.

Better red than dead is not good enough

I was not very surprised when suddenly, within a year of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a mighty peace movement came into being in Western Europe. Having lived 34 years in my beloved communist motherland, I can easily predict many of their decisions, tricks, pranks and stunts. In fact, it is not very difficult to do, for the Soviet state is not a very intelligent creature, rather a huge brainless ante-diluvian reptile with a fixed set of reflexes at its disposal.

What was more amusing to observe was the apparent eagerness with which mature and responsible people had fallen into the Soviet booby-trap in their thousands. It is as if history was repeating itself in front of us, giving us a chance to see how the Russian state collapsed in 1917, or how France collapsed in 1940.

Once again, the universal craving for peace at any price has rendered people illogical, irrational, unable to think calmly. Their arguments, if one may call them so, are so childish, senseless, selfish, that an involuntary smile comes to one's lips. Any intelligent discussion is impossible with them; because at best they would parrot out the old, mouldy Soviet slogans and clichés which even school children in the Soviet Union would laugh at.

To begin with, why is it that everybody started suddenly to be so apprehensive of nuclear war? What happened to make it more real than a year ago? Just because the Soviet rulers were caught cheating the West, and the new American Administration decided to change the pattern of their negotiations with the Soviets, the war is more real? But clearly, the whole history of East-West relations shows that the only way to force the Soviets to respect agreements is to be in a position of strength.

So should we say that war is more real now than a year ago just because the Soviets have got themselves into a difficult position and may lose their military superiority? Should we, then, go further to suggest that the only guarantee of peace is Soviet superiority?

The Soviet-controlled World Peace Council writes in its booklet of 1980: "The people of the world are alarmed. Never before has there been so great a danger of a world nuclear holocaust. The nuclear arms build-up, the accumulation of deadly arsenals has reached a critical point. Further escalation in the arms build-up could create a most dangerous situation facing humanity with the threat of annihilation."

But why was it not so dangerous a year or two ago? Why has it become so dangerous

only now? Were not the leaders of the peace movement claiming that the nuclear potential accumulated on both sides is sufficient to destroy each other ten times? Is there any technical reason why "20 times" is more dangerous than, say, "5 times"? Somehow, amidst this nuclear hysteria, it is totally forgotten that the bombs themselves are quite harmless unless somebody wishes to throw them. So, why are we suddenly alarmed by the stockpiles of hardware and not by the Soviet military move toward the Persian Gulf?

Quite suddenly a large proportion of the population has started an outcry: "Nuclear weapons are immoral!" Wait a minute. Have they just become immoral, while a couple of years ago they were all right? Are conventional weapons moral? Why has this idea just occurred to all these people?

Or take the example of the new missiles in Europe. Why is it more dangerous to replace the old missiles with new ones than to leave the old ones where they are? Were not the old ones equipped with nuclear charges as well? Indeed, the new ones are more accurate. Thank God they are on our side. It may make life more difficult for the Kremlin adventurers. But why should millions of people in the West see it as a tragedy and a danger?

In the depth of their hearts, the majority of these frightened people have a simple answer to all these "whys". They know that the only source of danger is the Soviet Union and anything which makes it angry is dangerous. But the fear is so paralyzing as to make them totally irrational — as illogical as advocating the abolition of police forces just because criminals have become too aggressive.

Indeed, the most amazing aspect of the present anti-war hysteria is not only the timing of its start, so remarkably favourable for Moscow, but the direction of the campaign. Millions of people in Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, France and Italy, being supposedly of sane mind, claim that the threat of war comes from their own governments and the Government of the USA! Psychoanalysts would call it a Freudian replacement of a real object of fear with an imaginary one.

The facts are too obvious. One may like or dislike President Reagan or Chancellor Schmidt, but unlike comrade Brezhnev, they were elected by a majority of their populations and are fully accountable to their parliaments and to the people. They cannot simply declare a war of their own volition.

Besides, it is quite easy to see the real source of aggression. Was it American or the Soviet troops who occupied half of Germany and erected a wall in Berlin? Is it not the Soviets who occupy Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the Baltic States and Afghanistan against the wish of the people in these countries? Are they East or West German troops which concentrate on the Polish border at this very moment?

Everything in the West is done quite openly (one might say, far too openly). But what do we know about the decisions made by 15 old fools, whom nobody elected to make these decisions and nobody can bring to account. No press are allowed to criticize them, no demonstrations to protest against them. Those who refuse to obey their secret orders disappear forever. In fact there is little difference between the Soviet system and that of Nazi Germany.

After speaking several times with the proponents of the current peace movement, I know that no logic would impress them. They would claim unabashed that there is no Soviet military superiority (it is all, as they say, CIA propaganda, the only reliable source of information for them being the KGB). Repeating word for word the old clichés from Pravda, they would maintain that the "crazy American generals" are so trigger-happy as to push a button just for the fun of it. (Although I never could understand why generals must be crazy — the Americans, of course, not the Soviet generals, who are, apparently, immune to craziness — and if they are, why they did not push the bloody button long ago?) Anyway, I can hardly imagine that the generals, who at least have had a good technical education, are more stupid and less equipped to understand nuclear problems than the primary school teachers and the historians from the peace movement.

Some of these "peace makers" sincerely believe that as soon as the West disarms itself, the Soviets will follow suit. And with incredible naivety they ask us to try this suicidal experiment. Others are more sophisticated and know that their Soviet masters need only to gain time and a more advantageous position in future negotiations with the Americans. So they suggest starting negotiations first and improving the Western position later.

Some are more openly selfish and object only to the placement of nuclear weapons near their own village (town, county or their whole country) as if being

protected is more dangerous than not to be. Or, better still, as if one village, town or country can maintain nuclear neutrality in the time of a modern war. "Let Americans fight the Russians" as if the whole problem of the world stems from a stupid quarrel between "Americans and Russians".

Surely, they argue, if comrade Brezhnev has promised to respect the "nuclear-free zone" in case of war, we may sigh with relief and sleep peacefully. Has comrade Brezhnev ever broken his word? Of course not. He is a most honest man, is he not? He can even guarantee the direction of the nuclear-contaminated clouds and the location of the radio-active fall-out.

"Why should the Russians attack us, if we are disarmed?" Why indeed? Ask Afghani peasants. They probably know.

There is no sense in repeating all these "arguments". In fact, to argue with the "peace lovers" is as senseless as arguing with an old hysterical lady or with Soviet propaganda itself. One thing stands out quite clearly through all their arguments: a panic fear and a readiness to capitulate in front of the Soviet threat even before the capitulation is demanded. Better red than dead. That is why the current Soviet propaganda suddenly became so remarkably successful and this peace movement is so efficiently governed from Moscow.

There is hardly any country, political party or international organization which did not condemn the Soviet aggression unequivocally (including even some communist parties). The only organization which never did, paradoxically, call itself the "peace movement". It is equally obvious that a Soviet invasion of Poland would bring us closer to a new world war or, at least, will make relaxation of international tension quite impossible for 10 to

15 years. Once again, the only organization which did not condemn the Soviet threats to Poland was the "peace movement".

It is common sense to try to restrain both sides of the would-be conflict if we are to promote peace. But the "peace movement" is so "unilateral" that it entirely ignores "the other side", quite deliberately protecting its interests. They cry shame at the Americans for non-existent weapons like the neutron bomb, or for yet-to-be-deployed cruise and Pershing. But the hundreds of SS-20 missiles aimed at Europe did not get more than a brief mention.

At a time when a quarter of a million "peace lovers" are noisily expressing their "unilateral" feelings, thousands of young people in the USSR are imprisoned because they refuse to support the aggressive Soviet policies, because they refused to serve in the army or shoot civilians in Afghanistan. And still in exile is the Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, who has done more than anybody in the world to stop nuclear bomb tests.

Did the self-appointed "peace makers" ever say a word in support of these noble people? Never. They would happily throw stones at General Haig, but they would welcome with servile smiles Marshal Brezhnev. A good dog does not bark at its master.

There are plenty of naive and frightened people in the ranks of the peace movement. As in the 1950s, it probably consists of an odd mixture of communists, fellow-travellers, middle-headed intellectuals, hypocrites seeking popularity, professional political speculators, frightened bourgeois and young people eager to rebel against anything. But there is no doubt that this motley crowd is governed by a handful of scoundrels instructed directly from Moscow. Just when I was about to finish this article, the news came about one of the leaders of the peace movement in Denmark, Mr. Petersen, being arrested with his wife for channelling the Soviet money into the funds of the peace movement. His master, the Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, was expelled from the country.

Right in front of me is further proof, a pamphlet called *Programme of Action 1981*. It was published in Helsinki by a Soviet organization notorious in the 1950s, the World Peace Council, and it gives a detailed account of how this current "peace movement" was organized. It also gives precise instructions on where, when and what must be done by different groups of the "peace movement" in 1981.

which is chosen to be "a year of decisive offensive of peace forces to achieve a break-through in curbing the arms build-up".

Most of the programme has already been carried out, the recent mass demonstrations being organized in Germany, France, Britain and Belgium within a framework of what is called in this Soviet booklet "Disarmament Week (October 24-31)". How on earth could the Soviets know in 1980 about the events at the end of 1981, unless they control the whole show?

As could be expected, there is a clear definition of "just" and "unjust" wars: "The policy of destabilization of progressive regimes in developing countries actually constitutes an aggression, waged with psychological, economic, political and other means, including armed intervention" however similar against "racist and fascist" regimes is condoned.

In Communist Party jargon there is such a term as a "useful idiot". Now, despite all their blunders, adventures, economic disasters, the Polish crisis and stubborn Afghan peasants, Reagan's re-armament plans and UN resolutions, the Soviet rulers have scored a spectacular victory: they have recruited millions of useful idiots to implement their bankrupt foreign policy.

Subsidized trips of peace activists to the best Soviet resorts and the cost of running the campaign must be astronomical. Still, it is cheaper than another round of the arms race, let alone military superiority. And the results will be long-lasting.

Mind you, it is only the end of the first of a 10-year plan for the "struggle for peace". Within a few years the earth will be trembling under the feet of the useful idiots, for their resources are inexhaustible. Just wait and see. I remember in the 1950s, when the previous peace campaign was still in full swing there was a popular joke which people told each other:

"A Jew came to his rabbi and asked: 'Rabbi, you are a very wise man. Tell me, is there going to be a war?' There will be no war," replied the rabbi. "But there will be such a struggle for peace that no stone will be left standing."

Vladimir Bukovsky
© Times Newspapers Limited, 1981

Moscow guided the rallies of the fifties

One may say with certainty that the "struggle for peace" is a cornerstone of Soviet international politics. In fact, Soviet Power itself appeared out of the ashes of the First World War under the slogan: "Peace to the Peoples! Power to the Soviets!" Perhaps at that moment the bolshevik ideologists realised for the first time what a powerful weapon is this universal craving for peace, how gullible, irrational and illogical people become as soon as they are tempted with the slightest hope for it.

This irresistible craving for peace at any price brought the terrorized population to accept the Soviet rule as a lesser evil. Anything, but this monstrous slaughter, starvation and typhoid. Anything for some sort of order.

Unfortunately, the order established by communists meant nothing less than a permanent civil war, both inside the country and universally. Or, to be more precise, a global "struggle for peace", because, in Lenin's words: "As an ultimate objective 'peace' simply means communist world control".

A resurrection of peaceful sentiments occurred shortly after the Second World War, after the Soviet Union had swallowed a dozen countries in Central Europe and threatened to engulf



Peace images of the 1980s (above) and the 1950s.

the rest of the continent. At that time, some "imperialist warmongers" had sounded an alarm and even suggested to increase the armaments of the capitalist countries. Due to their vicious attacks the "very aggressive" Nato alliance was created, and "reactionary forces" of the world had started the "cold war".

There were numerous marches, rallies and petitions in the 1950s (including the famous Stockholm Appeal and the meetings of the indefatigable World Peace Council). It is hardly a secret now that the whole campaign was organized, conducted and financed from Moscow through the so-called Peace Fund and the World Peace Council, where a safe majority was secured by such puppet-figures as Erenburg, Ilichikov, etc.

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Christmas with the Special Touch

WHY ARE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE DREAMING OF A DRY CHRISTMAS?

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SIP IT AND SEE!

As the US Defence Secretary arrives in Morocco, Edward Heath assesses the consequences for the West of the long-running Sahara conflict

Why we must intervene in this desert war

The Middle East is not the only part of the Arab world where a territorial dispute has divided Arab states, endangered moderate leaders whose survival is important for the West, and fomented instability. There is another conflict where similar dangers are looming. It is the struggle between Morocco and the Polisario Front, backed by Algeria, for sovereignty over the Western Sahara.

This vast expanse of desert, formerly known as the Spanish Sahara, borders the north-west coast of Africa and is rich in minerals, especially phosphate. It was partitioned and occupied by Morocco and Mauritania immediately after Spain formally withdrew its colonial administration from the territory in February 1976. From the outset the occupying powers were challenged by the Polisario, a vigorous and highly astute guerrilla movement determined to win independence.

After a fierce struggle Mauritania finally withdrew from the war in 1978, following the overthrow of that country's leadership in a military coup. Morocco was then left to continue the war on her own.

Why should this little known conflict on the periphery of the Arab world be of any real concern to the West? There are at least three reasons why I believe the West should take a more constructive interest in its resolution.

First, the position of King Hassan II of Morocco, who has long been a true friend of the West and a Western policy supporter in Africa and the Middle East, may be seriously threatened by the continuation of the conflict. The King has thrown all his prestige behind a massive war effort which shows no sign of producing a victory, which has resulted in the deaths of many hundreds, if not thousands, of his soldiers, and which he himself declares is costing the country \$800,000 daily, or 40 per cent of the national budget.

Second, any unsettling effect which the war might have on the position of King



Women and children supporters of the Polisario guerrillas gather in the desert to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict earlier this year.

Hassan could drastically alter the balance of power in the region in favour of radical leaders who are opposed to moderate Arab regimes and to the West. There can be no doubt that this would facilitate the fanatical purposes of President Gaddafi of Libya and endanger the already difficult position of the leaders of Sudan and Egypt.

The unenvying effect which these developments in turn would almost certainly have on the vital oil-producing nations of the Gulf could only do further damage to the security of the region and to the prospects for the Arab world is now emotionally, politically and ideologically spread like wildfire and endanger the position of moderate leaders elsewhere.

Support from Moscow, Libya

Third, the longer the war continues and the more expensive it becomes for both sides, the more the Polisario may be forced to look to Libya and the Soviet Union for support. Indeed, it

is already believed to receive considerable backing from these two countries. It is a telling commentary on the short-term perspectives of our leaders in the West that few of them have ever acknowledged the potentially grave danger of failing to seek an urgent political solution in the Sahara. Once again they seem unprepared seriously to confront a looming threat to our interests.

Two alibis are often used to justify this inaction. The first holds that since King Hassan's aim to control the entire Western Sahara would have to be abandoned in any negotiated solution to the conflict that now seems possible, a diplomatic approach would simply hasten the threat to his position we wish to avoid.

I cannot accept this argument. King Hassan is by all reliable accounts a popular leader in his own country. If a compromise with the Polisario could be found, he would be able to show his people a gain for their sacrifices, something which will become increasingly difficult the longer the war is allowed to drag on.

Since outright military victory for Morocco is almost inconceivable, the alternatives to a negotiated solution are likely to be worse. The dangers of the first of these alternatives — military defeat — need no elaboration. The second — a series of unilateral concessions by Morocco during the course of a continuing war — could be almost as serious. Such a strategy might hasten defeat for Morocco rather than postpone it because it will embolden the Polisario's forces rather than pacify them.

This indeed seems to have been the result of King Hassan's acceptance this summer of a referendum on the Saharawi future of the territory, for this implicitly conceded their demands in lives and resources which this would make of the Moroccan people will inevitably come to seem increasingly senseless to them, and as a result any eventual compromise which the King is able to strike with the Polisario will be less and less of a reward the longer it is delayed.

Mediation and source of ideas

It would be impossible, and certainly undesirable, for the West to insist on any particular solution or path to a solution. But we can be of crucial importance as a mediator and as a source of ideas for a settlement.

Here, the EEC has a most important role to play. Both the new Socialist Government in France and the ruling Social Democratic Party in West Germany have

good working relations with Algeria and a considerable amount of support for the Polisario within their ranks. In addition, the governments of France and Germany have a history of friendship with Morocco, to which they have extended a great deal of military and economic assistance.

Britain, too, has excellent relations with King Hassan. Taken together, this puts the European Community in a promising position for giving a lead in finding a diplomatic solution.

The United States, by contrast, does not have such a balanced relationship with the two sides. Nor are the Polisario, Algeria or Morocco as familiar with America as they are with the old colonial powers of Europe.

It is, however, a prerequisite to any mediatory role for Europe in the Saharan conflict that we should initiate a dialogue with the Polisario at the highest official level. There is no convincing argument against doing so, either on the grounds of constitutional principle or on the grounds of political expediency. Europe is, after all, basing its policy on the PLO; some of our most senior officials and political leaders have engaged in extensive talks with it, and we have insisted that the PLO should participate fully in the Middle East peace process.

To talk to the Polisario would not be to recognize the state over which it claims sovereignty, just as our dialogue with the PLO does not recognize its right to sovereignty over the territory which it claims on behalf of the Palestinians.

The incessant threat of turmoil in the Middle East should have alerted us to the profound danger of allowing conflict in vital regions to smoulder on unchecked or making ourselves irrelevant to their solution by a policy which eschews talks with one side or the other. History would surely judge us poorly if all the lessons which the Palestinian problem has so painfully taught us were now to be lost in the increasingly stormy sands of the Sahara.

David Watt

Now that the Wets have had their way

Having been in the Far East and Russia for nearly a month, I have been almost entirely cut off from tidings of Britain and may, like the friend who tells you how grey you've got, have been struck by the sum of changes that have been too insignificant to be noticed as they appeared.

The shift that I do notice particularly is that the Government's fortunes have ceased to fall and may even be on the rise. That does not mean the Conservatives have much chance of winning the next general election, but it is a change that has been noticed by the media and the public.

Trying to identify the evidence that would validate these impressions is more difficult, especially after a month's absence. On every side, as depressing continuation of Thatcherism at its gloomiest. But several elements do seem to have some real existence.

First, some sort of change of course in under way — more of a delicate curve than a U-turn, but perceptible. Some of the most powerful, with the advice of the Wets, the "toughest" knob has been given a twist to the left. Blood and thunder is out. Several reportings of the word "flexible" were actually made during the Prime Minister's speech of the Address.

More substantially, Mr Norman Tebbit has produced a scheme of trade union reform that is really pretty moderate — and has, astonishingly, made the cries of anguish from Congress House sound false and histrionic.

The Chancellor's performance on Wednesday did not, as put it mildly, set the racing with optimism and excitement. In fact it provided another, melancholy commentary on the political inadequacy of the Thatcher-Howe strategy.

The alienation of quite large sections of our society will proceed. Speaking more tactically, real personal disposable income (the significant economic indicator from the political point of view) will fall for another year. On the other hand, one way of looking at the Chancellor's measures is to say that he has allowed the Wets to have their way by permitting public expenditure to rise in relation to unemployment, and as for the increase in national insurance contributions, and the cut in unemployment benefit, the policy can be seen as a consolation for the victims are unlikely to have ever been Tory voters.

Again, one plausible interpretation of the Treasury arithmetic is to say that the Chancellor has given himself the opportunity for a tax-cutting Budget in the spring. The other side of evidence which offers some genuine comfort to Conservatives is the Crosby by-election result, paradoxical though that may seem. The Tory vote was a byproduct of the fact that even worse, the Conservatives were no worse off compared with their performance at Warrington or Croydon, and the Williams campaign, for all its success,

begin to show up the chinks in the SDP armour, particularly their lack of policies.

Taken together, with Labour's collapse, the moral is that while the SDP/Liberal Alliance has obviously become the most immediate danger to the Conservatives and cannot be dismissed, like previous Liberal revivals, as a flash in the pan, the centrists are not so well entrenched that many disenchanted Conservative voters cannot be enticed back to the fold by election time.

The conventional wisdom thus begins to crystallize into a scenario in which the Conservatives manage to re-establish themselves by the election as the most powerful, full single party and the SDP/Liberal Alliance becomes the runner-up and/or holds the balance of power in the next Parliament. In such a case, a Conservative/Alliance coalition (an SDP coalition with Labour being ruled out almost by definition) becomes a real possibility and at least some of the levers of power remain in Tory hands. The fact that these hands would not include Mrs Thatcher's (whose head on a charger garnished with proportional representation would be the price of agreement) does not make the prospect any less alluring to many Conservatives and certainly accounts for Mr Heath's almost unseemly enthusiasm.

The weak spots in this seductive yarn consist in doubts about the economy and the SDP's ability to cope with the world economy and the American economy in particular, and the fact that the recovery before early 1983 there is little hope of more than a minuscule real growth in the British GDP in the run-up to an Autumn 83 election — which provides the Chancellor with little scope for lavish giveaways.

But even if one assumed the best on the economic side, there is the problem that the return of Conservative voters to the fold is only a partial political requirement. What is also needed is a safe bet that someone is going to prevent a last-minute Labour revival caused by a working class revolt against Thatcherite economic policy and unemployment. The only possible candidates for this role are the Social Democrats, who were supposed to divert the discontent into the new, centrist channels.

But will they? At Warrington, Mr Jenkins demonstrated the SDP's ability to corral traditional Labour votes almost as well as Mrs Williams at Crosby demonstrated their ability to corral Conservative ones. But the fact that Mr Jenkins is hesitating over whether to fight in the Crosby by-election, another old-fashioned Labour stronghold, gives the game away. He is by no means sure that his pro-EC, Asquithian image will go down in working class London — and who shall blame him?

The way the SDP will end up voting is still an open question. It is quite possible, it becomes more and more middle class its chances of doing what the Tories hope of it are diminished. It is a case of the SDP, which Conservative politics have fallen that the future should depend upon such remote calculations but, while the possibility remains open, the Government must open its arms to emboldened supporters — can take some comfort.

Women's Hour in the sex shop

Loitering around a sex shop in the meaner streets of Camden Town is a dispiriting way to pass the time. I was waiting for Women's Hour, the inspired stratagem of Connegate Limited, who claim, with 108 branches, to be Britain's largest sex-shop chain.

Although their shops seethe with women, managers as well as customers, at all times of the day, Connegate decided to provide the special concession for women who are still "too shy" to enter their shops.

The hour: 11 am on Tuesdays should confine the treat to housewives and pensioners. Connegate are the first British sex shop to have made such generous provision for female sensibilities (in America there are already shops catering exclusively for women) and so far they have been appreciated.

It was 11 o'clock; I insinuated myself into the shop with the minimum of observation. A large assistant bounded up and sniffed at the hem of my skirt.

"Down Lady," said Andy Fish from the back of his shop. It was a disconcerting name for a dog, considering the circumstances. The Fish premises had a structuralist air about their decoration. The dog and a carpet were the only luxuries. A couple of old ladies were piled with creams, ointments, "Sex-Maniacs" diaries and many wobbly handwritten notices which pointed the customer towards items which might otherwise be passed over. "Super Satisfac-

tion" they said, or "For that extra get up and go." "Full length hair!" announced the notice for their ladies. "Normally £345, Here £310."

Mr Fish sat in front of another sign: "Take note! All thieves will be nicked!" "Cup of tea?" said Mr Fish, sounding uncertain as to how he would provide one. He rifled through a desk, flinging open drawers crammed full of coloured condoms, assorted stimulating creams and the occasional half-empty bag of granulated sugar. The door opened and a young man poked his head in.

"Sorry mate," said Mr Fish, "Lady's hour, come back in an hour."

The man eyed my notebook and diary as if suspecting Mr Fish was not a genuine sex-shop owner but a con man.

Even before they introduced this scheme three months ago, Connegate claims that women accounted for 25 per cent of their trade. "There has been a change in attitude," Mr Fish explained, "finger a collection of silver chains around his neck. Generally, sex shops have become acceptable. I mean ones of this sort, the less sleazy ones. If more

people in general realise they are not sleazy, then more women will realise."

I stared at the dingy carpet, the sick-looking plastic wraps, the makeshift shelves. At the bottom of the shop a curtained-off area was set aside for "trying" videos. If you decided to buy one for £25 you got your £2 back. I began to understand Mr Fish's "if you disapprove of this you are a prude" tactic and blushed.

Mr Fish crusades for the reputation of the sex-shop. "In popular opinion we just sell dirty books etc, but we also have a great range of marital aids, sex toys and lingerie. Despite the temptations of this range, and the greater confidence shown by women for sex shops when they appear next to the local supermarket, Fish thinks Women's Hour is important. "Women do not like to come in for fear of being ogled by men who, rightly or wrongly, think that if a woman goes into a sex shop she is a tawdry and fair game."

It is not the case, of course, but if a couple of young men are seen and a young girl comes in and buys a vibrator they are going to go "Worrzzzzz yeah, she's a good un." Mr Fish did a convincing imitation of their misguided lust. Another man popped his head round the door, smiled at him brazenly. "Sorry mate," said Mr Fish.

Lady was getting frisky again. "Over here you!" said Mr Fish absently, groping for a vibrator. He turned out to be the Fish equivalent of the Kinsey Report. According to his figures, sex offences have been interrupted by the same period that Connegate has taken to become the leading sex-shop chain.

Amazing! Before we could discuss the full significance of these findings, we were interrupted by an attractive woman of about 35, wearing

jeans and expensive shoes. She greeted Mr Fish like an old friend and made for the vibrator. Dropping the Fish Report, he was by her side in a trice. Even Lady, clearly realising that money was at stake, made herself scarce.

Mr Fish and the woman hovered over the vibrator. I stayed in the background. The woman asked to see an "ordinary" model. She giggled, but thought that £25 was a bit pricey. Mr Fish pondered, and reduced the price to £20, adding a few persuasive recommendations of his own. "It does things an ordinary vibrator won't do," More giggles.

Then she was rummaging through the lingerie department: a large cardboard box full of assorted fancies. I coloured red, some cunningly exposing all the areas which the usual purveyor is deemed to conceal.

The lady was dithering so Mr Fish threw in a final inducement: a dippled-adorned-and-padded-set in daring red and black, and the whole lot for £32.50. Vibrators are Mr Fish's own best seller for women. "This is your standard plastic vibrator, feel it," he said, unwrapping one for me. It was very tempting.

"Everyone thinks it is the gay, liberated young things buying this stuff, but no-one takes account of the frustrated widows and spinners," said Mr Fish, movingly recalling an incident in

Chatham where a district nurse had come in and bought two vibrators for paraplegic patients. "An old lady," he beamed, "I got the impression they were being paid for by the health services."

And it's not just sad women, but sad couples too, who can benefit from Connegate's sexual provisions. "There are a great number of people in their 40s and 50s who have been married for 20 years or so who want to spice up their sex lives with things they were not aware of in their younger days."

"Poignant as all this was, it was time for an attack. Don't you, I demanded feebly, get some female complaints about the brutal material? "Oh of course we get some criticism from women who come in deliberately to complain," said Mr Fish, scornfully, "but when girls earn the money that they do, if they want to do it it's up to them."

"We get lots of women coming in here and asking about modelling," came the next justification. Does he put them in touch with photographers? "Yes," said Mr Fish, "if I think they are good."

Mr Fish had all this, and 25 per cent of his colleagues who are female managers of Connegate sex shops on his side. I had a few financially uncompelling arguments, which were beginning to sound prudish. Anyway, Women's Hour was "hearing of this end," I made my excuses and left.

For the future, the headmaster to the boys and girls of four daughters says he will continue to support the idea of broadening the curriculum in the sixth form by promoting the introduction of L levels between O and A Levels. Some revolutionary to a traditionalist like me.

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Now Dr Budd faces a student rebellion

Dr Alan Budd, director of the Centre of Economic Forecasting at the London Business School, seems to be in a bit of a cleft stick. Having incurred the wrath of monetarist devotees by declaring this week that the Government had made a "serious mistake" by allowing the exchange rate of the pound to rise so dramatically last year, thereby admitting that an essential part of his and Professor Terry Burn's advice to Maggie was wrong, he has now managed to enrage many of his students at the London Business School.

First-year students at LBS, worried about their examination in macro-economics next week, have circulated a petition stating that none of the material in Dr Budd's lectures will be of any use to them at all in the examinations. Altogether 87 per cent of his students have signed it. It is claimed that his lectures are dispiriting about the national account, solely composed of Treasury figures which students are expected to memorize parrot-fashion, rather than an analysis of macro-economic theory.

At his lecture on Wednesday Dr Budd announced that he never listens to petitions and he does not like teaching macro-economics "because it bores me, the national accounts are far more interesting." A 20-minute argument followed with his class, which was hotly continued the

THE TIMES DIARY



Congratulations to Claire Ryle, 29-year-old daughter of Sir Martin, our Astronomer Royal. She has pulled off a feat by ensuring that at least two presidents of royal medical colleges will attend a meeting of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) at Neumham College, Cambridge, next April. Sir Douglas Black, former Government chief scientist, and now President of the Royal College of Physicians, will chair some of the sessions at the conference to be held between April 3 and 7. Dr John Horder, President of the Royal College of Physicians, will also take part. And that is not all. Inter-

national delegates will include Academician Eugene Tschazov, described as President Brezhnev's personal physician, and head of the Soviet Academy of Cardiology, and Professor Bernard Lown, a Nobel Prize winner who runs Harvard Medical School's cardiology department. Tschazov and Lown started IPPNW last year.

Miss Ryle, who is full-time organizer of the Cambridge-based Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, told me yesterday: "This is an exciting new part of the disarmament movement. It is not allied to CND, so the medical profession, which is one of the most conservative, can feel happy to speak out on what is really a higher, more representative health issue today."

Mr James Hele, High Master of St Paul's School and the next chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, is a very judicious man. When we spoke yesterday after his election to this prestigious office, which represents 215 of the country's top fee-paying public schools, he scrupulously avoided the dangers of an easy generalization or the ill-judged aside. (This sort of behaviour

does not make my job any easier.) A firm believer in evolutionary rather than revolutionary change, he is prone to talking about building on the good and the need for "conscious adaptation." There were no suspects, he said, of dramatic changes of direction when Mr Hele takes over the HMC in January. He follows in the footsteps of John Thorne, headmaster of Winchester, and Ian Beer, headmaster of Harrow, and his prudence will be an asset in the increasingly important business of defending the role of the private sector in education.

Mr Victor Fox, marketing director of Kadix Fashions of London, has teleaxed me and no doubt scores of other London journalists with some information so riveting so important that it was embargoed until "01.00" this morning. Golly. The news turns out to be that "Mrs Shirley Williams and four other famous women" are today to be dubbed the "Frumpy Five" by this "leading" London fashion house. In the firm's no-doubt far-sighted view, "the other four most-dressed women in the public eye are Princess Anne,

the Lynch Reges and the chthonic, and even in the form of handouts using words like "dubbed", "exclusive", "world's foremost" and "Rachel Heyhoe-Flint".

Over the week-end, I have been collecting these with a view to giving my own awards for the five crummiest to pass my desk. I can now reveal, exclusively of course, that the following can be dubbed Britain's five foremost agencies when it comes to having crummy PR ideas: © Kadix for their "Secrets of the Smallest Room revealed"; © Crown Points Press Office for their "survey", also published today, entitled "Secrets of the Smallest Room revealed"; © The other side of evidence which offers some genuine comfort to Conservatives is the Crosby by-election result, paradoxical though that may seem. The Tory vote was a byproduct of the fact that even worse, the Conservatives were no worse off compared with their performance at Warrington or Croydon, and the Williams campaign, for all its success,

Dear Denis I sometimes think that Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, must be in cahoots with John Lynch — or own shares in Private Eye. What else could explain Mr T's behaviour yesterday, in flying to Bahrain by Gulf Air, when British Airways fly the route at the same time for the same price (£665.50, one-way)? No wonder British Airways staff at Heathrow were described as upset.

Absolutely no prizes for guessing the contents of John Wells's "Dear Bill" column in the next Private Eye.



Diana Dora, Miss World Organizer, Julia Morley, and Coronation Street star Julie Goodyear, who plays Bar Lynch, Crickley. There is more. The firm suggests that Shirley Williams could take a few tips from Mrs Thatcher. Mrs Morley could take a lesson in style from Anna Ford. Diana Dora from Zsa Zsa Gabor. Princess Anne from the Princess of Wales and Julie Goodyear from Fiona Richmond or Jane Fonda. By Jove. What all this rubbish really is, of course, is yet another crummy public-relations idea. One of the hazards of my job is that between the gin and the lobster, between

the Lynch Reges and the chthonic, and even in the form of handouts using words like "dubbed", "exclusive", "world's foremost" and "Rachel Heyhoe-Flint".

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Bad news Gosh, Mr Victor Fox, marketing director of Kadix Fashions of London, has teleaxed me and no doubt scores of other London journalists with some information so riveting so important that it was embargoed until "01.00" this morning. Golly. The news turns out to be that "Mrs Shirley Williams and four other famous women" are today to be dubbed the "Frumpy Five" by this "leading" London fashion house. In the firm's no-doubt far-sighted view, "the other four most-dressed women in the public eye are Princess Anne,

to enclose a large cheque or two tickets to San Francisco.

Cheap laughs Richard Allen may have been cleared by the United States Justice Department after accepting payment from Japanese journalists, an arrangement he interviewed with Nancy Reagan, but jokes about him are now plaguing White House staff. David Gergen, "communications director" at the White House, was not pleased when he took the rostrum to conduct the daily briefing the other day to find dollar bills strewn around the microphone. Then a writer for the Washington Guide, which ran a White House photo of Nancy Reagan on its cover, presented Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary, with the customary \$4.50 fee for use of an official photograph. An extra \$4.50 was also enclosed as a "thank you." When Speakes indignantly rejected the cash, the journalist responded: "What's the matter? Isn't American money as good as Japanese?"

Closed shop A new form of industrial action is, I hear, catching on in France. Since October at least a dozen top managers have found themselves locked in their offices. These are not those good-natured and comical occasions such as those where parents have shut in popular teachers who have been ordered to change school. All the angry cases are in protest against sackings and factory closures.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

BORN TO SUCCEED

The law governing the succession to the Throne is, as things go, exceptionally favourable to the claims of women's rights. A Queen occupies the throne today in her own right, and others have preceded her: a female has no prescriptive right to inherit a dukedom or earldom. Salic law, which denied the crown of Hanover to Queen Victoria, has never governed succession to the English throne. But the law does not, even so, treat sons and daughters on equal terms, and the prospect that the royal line may soon reach a generation further has raised the question whether the law should be changed. This week Mr Michael English, M.P., has presented a Private Member's Bill in the Commons which would amend the Act of Settlement 1701 to give the first child of the Prince and Princess of Wales an unconditional claim, whether a boy or girl (subject to the other conditions laid down in the Act, which have nothing to do with gender).

Our present Queen's claim was technically conditional until the moment of her accession. A son born either to her eldest uncle (until 1936) or to her own parents would always have superseded her claim. The child whose happy delivery we look forward to next June will take second place in the line in any event, but if she is a princess, a brother will always be able to step between her and the succession. It is impossible to guess whether this might be a matter of relief or disappointment to her, but it does not sit easily with current ideas about equal rights.

Nor does the idea of monarchy itself, it may be said. The institution's great modern propagandist, Begehot, has conditioned us to treat it carefully, as if a puff of air

might blow away the magic. The practical reasons for giving preference to a male that existed when a monarch had to be a soldier have long disappeared. The need for an undisputed lineal pattern often overrode them when the heir was a baby, and ensured the succession of queens regnant at a period when soldiering was still very much a part of the normal business of kingship. But precedent is almost everything in matters of succession: the existing law has served well for centuries; why not let sleeping dogs lie?

The law is founded on an assumption of unequal competence. That assumption is not borne out by history — rather the reverse; if the examples of Elizabeth and Victoria are considered, it is impossible to say how influential it may be upon current attitudes to sexual equality. It would certainly be wise to leave it as a venerable anomaly if there was any danger of serious controversy — being aroused by an attempt to change it. Public feelings on the issue at the moment are probably not very strong. But on the whole there is likely to be greater risk of controversy damaging the Crown if a princess is seen apparently being robbed of her rights than if a potential son and heir's hypothetical claim is set aside. In Sweden, where the law provided that a woman could not succeed in any circumstances, the birth of a daughter to the king and queen in 1977 was quickly followed by legislative provision that the eldest child should inherit regardless of sex. The change was popular, and remains so since the birth of the princess's younger brother.

It is not in dispute that Parliament has the right to tamper with the succession.

Since Henry IV at least, kings have relied on statute to confirm *de facto* claims. Parliament overruled strict hereditary in the case of William III and of George I. The English monarchy was elective long before the Normans came. Considerable art in draughtsmanship may be required satisfactorily to amend the 1701 Act, which lays down its rules of succession as if it was merely confirming common law principles which did not in fact exist. It will not be the first time the Act has suffered amendment. But the matter has been complicated since 1931 by the Statute of Westminster, whose preamble states that the parliaments of all the dominions of the Commonwealth should give their consent to any law touching the succession. Parliament cannot bind itself, of course, and the preamble does not technically have the force of law. But it creates a very strong constitutional presumption which must be respected. Parliament must not move unless all formal and informal precautions have been taken to ensure that the sovereign's role as Head of the Commonwealth is not impaired.

It seems unlikely that any strong objections would be raised by our fellow members of the Commonwealth. It is not as if a Queen is a novelty. If the overseas complications could be overcome, and if no serious opposition becomes apparent at home, then the case for making the change would be a strong one. And once it has been made, then the House of Peers may be disposed to ask themselves whether the English and Scottish enactments which deny their daughters rights of inheritance comparable to those of princesses are any longer defensible.

GOOD FOR NATO, GOOD FOR SPAIN

The Spanish application to join Nato, now formally submitted in Brussels and welcomed there, is an historic event both for Spain and for the alliance. For Spain, it marks the end of a period of isolation which dates back to the Civil War and the ostracism imposed on the Franco regime. Once Franco had died and a democratic system had been reestablished, the new rulers were anxious to return to the western community of nations, and they did this by making approaches to join first the European Community and then Nato. Negotiations with the Community have been held up by the Community's own internal problems, and the economic difficulties that are raised. But accession to Nato is a more straightforward affair, and should be completed in the course of next year, once the necessary ratifications are in.

For Nato, the entry of a country of Spain is also important. At the military level, it means the addition of the Spanish armed forces. The navy and the air force are the best equipped, while the army, though large, needs modernising. Its geographical situation gives Spain the ability to command much of the western Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic by sea and by air, while the Canary Islands lie on one of the West's main shipping lanes. To a certain extent Spain has been tied in with the Western system of defence for some years through its treaty with the United States and the bases made available to the Americans under it. But membership of Nato will enable its defence efforts to be coordinated much more closely with the rest of the alliance.

More significant, however, is the fact that Spain has decided to throw its lot with the countries of the democratic West. There are sectors of Spanish opinion

which would like it to be neutralist. There are those who believe that it should give priority to its historical links with Latin America, or to the Arab world. But for the time being, at least, it has chosen to join the mainstream of western Europe; and that is important at a time when neutralism and pacifism are running strongly, and when there are doubts about the strength of the alliance that Greece, another Mediterranean country, feels towards Nato.

There are bound to be objections from the Soviet Union. The Russians have consistently made it clear that they are opposed to Spain's joining Nato. One of their long-standing proposals has been that Nato and the Warsaw Pact should agree not to enlarge themselves, and they can be expected to make a propaganda issue out of this, emphasizing the contrast between Soviet proposals to disband all alliances and Nato's addition of a new member. But, given the fact that the Americans already have bases in Spain, they can hardly claim that the military balance has been seriously tilted.

More worrying is the uncertainty over Spain's internal situation. Spanish entry into Nato has been strongly opposed not only by the Communists, but also by the Socialists, who are the largest opposition party and could well win the next election. There is a strong groundswell of opposition in public opinion, reflected in some large demonstrations which have been held in recent weeks — and in the government's refusal to put the issue to a referendum for fear of losing. Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist leader, has talked of taking Spain out of Nato again if he came to power, either by a parliamentary vote or else by putting it to a referendum. But he has been under pressure to soften

his stand, not least from fellow Socialists in France, and it is not at all certain that he would insist on pulling Spain out when it came to the point.

There is, of course, a strong internal argument for Spain joining Nato, which is that it might help, however marginally, to prevent a military coup d'état. Nato membership has not prevented coups in Greece and Turkey in the past. But involvement in the alliance's planning would give Spanish officers something else to occupy their minds. And contact with officers from other Nato countries, by revealing a very different attitude to relations between the armed forces and the state, should do something to break down the extraordinarily closed mentality of many Spanish military men.

For Britain, there could be a particular advantage to be had from Spain's entry to Nato if it was used to resolve the impasse over Gibraltar. Britain and Spain reached an agreement in Lisbon last year by which Spain would lift the blockade of Gibraltar while simultaneously talks would begin on the territory's future; but the Spanish have not so far implemented the agreement, because of pressure from the right.

The Spanish government has, however, been expressing the view that it would be prepared to resolve the Gibraltar dispute once Spain was inside Nato — for example by having Spanish commanders in a Nato base in Gibraltar. And it is significant that the submission of Spain's application in Brussels has coincided with the announcement of a visit to London next month by Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, and suggestions in Madrid that the blockade may be lifted soon. If Spanish entry to Nato enabled progress to be made on Gibraltar, that would not be the least of the gains.

Chances for all

From Mr Michael Pacey

Sir, Lord Scarman's repudiation of the charge of institutional racism in Britain has led to bitter responses from the black population and its spokespeople, but I wonder whether the disagreement lies to some extent in the choice of words.

Whilst I am not in a position to disagree with Lord Scarman's contention that government and local authorities are making real efforts to promote racial integration, I suspect that much of the black resentment may be broadly directed at the white middle-class core of society in whose hands lie the professional and managerial opportunities which seem to be denied to the black aspirant at present. The police are inevitably seen, in this case, as the protectors of the comfortable and selfish state of affairs.

It is shameful to have to say it, but it is undeniable that the black

man is generally looked upon with a fundamental disdain in this country as a result of traditional and deep-seated attitudes. Articulate and intelligent black people are slowly dispelling this view, but can it really be said that our firms of accountants, architects, management consultants and lawyers feel fully at ease in sending a black man to represent them at meetings in their clients' boardrooms even when such qualified blacks are on their staff?

Lord Scarman has recommended particular emphasis on black education and employment, but it will have little long-term benefit unless the professions make an equal effort. Surely this is the moment when we should look for illuminating and unequivocal leadership at the highest levels in business and the professions.

Once familiarity removes the baseless fears we can look forward to receiving the undoubted gifts which this section

of the population is anxious to contribute.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PACEY,
44 Thornhill Road,
Thames Ditton,
Surrey.

Plight of museums

From Mrs M. W. Plooman

Sir, To help our museums in their present financial straits, why isn't an entrance charge made in June, July and August? The young, the elderly and the handicapped could be exempted.

This way most tourists would contribute to the upkeep of the splendours they had come to see, while our own citizens could often arrange to visit the museums, freely, at some other time of the year.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. PLOOMAN,
52 Felstead Road,
Orpington,
Kent.

Tightening screw on student grants

From the Master of St Catherine's College, Cambridge

Sir, The last full assessment of the maintenance grant for university students was in the mid-seventies. The figure it produced was what was needed for subsistence, together with an allowance for the special needs of students, such as books. Since then, the grant has been annually increased by a percentage based on (though usually less than) the Treasury's estimate of inflation; and that estimate in its turn has been usually less than the reality.

The announcement of the undergraduate maintenance grant for 1982-83 must destroy any pretence that the grant is any longer intended to cover subsistence fully. One is bound to ask whether there are any longer any principles on which the rate of the grant is based; if so it is surely time that the Secretary of State announced what those principles now are and set up a new assessment of the grant based on them.

The fact that the latest increase in undergraduate grant is by the percentage to which the Government hope to keep the increases in public sector pay suggest a very strong constitutional presumption which must be respected. Parliament must not move unless all formal and informal precautions have been taken to ensure that the sovereign's role as Head of the Commonwealth is not impaired.

It seems unlikely that any strong objections would be raised by our fellow members of the Commonwealth. It is not as if a Queen is a novelty. If the overseas complications could be overcome, and if no serious opposition becomes apparent at home, then the case for making the change would be a strong one. And once it has been made, then the House of Peers may be disposed to ask themselves whether the English and Scottish enactments which deny their daughters rights of inheritance comparable to those of princesses are any longer defensible.

Exchange rates and inflation

From Professor Alan P. Budd

Sir, I should welcome an opportunity to expand the off-the-cuff remarks reported by Melvyn Westlake in his story of December 2.

The comments to the Society of Business Economists were related to the special conditions of 1979 and 1980 and to possible economic developments over the short term. I have not in any way revised my support for the broad terms of the Government's economic strategy nor have I changed my view that the exchange rate plays a major role in controlling inflation in the medium term.

During the same period the United Kingdom, hydrocarbon energy rose in price by about 50% and electricity by about 30%. The energy of course is derived from indigenous commodities whose costs are incurred in pounds sterling and whose domestic prices are largely determined by state bodies with monopoly powers. At the same time, rates of earnings rose by about 30%.

This company, like much of manufacturing industry, has made a big contribution to reducing inflation by holding down prices. It has, however, been caught in a squeeze between selling prices held down by international competition and domestic input prices forced up by Government and trade union pressure. Since inflation has not come down very much, it must mean that the latter inflationary pressure has largely triumphed over the deflationary pressures of the high pound.

The burden of the effort to reduce inflation has been borne so far by those employees of manufacturing industry who have lost jobs and those shareholders who have lost dividends. There is also a long-term burden to be borne by the United Kingdom economy as a whole as a result of the loss of finance for future capital investment in the manufacturing sector.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PITTS,
Chairman,
Tioxide Group Limited,
10 Stratton Street, W1,
December 2.

What SDP success means for Labour

From Dr Colin Howson

Sir, Mr Hattersley's remark (*The Times*, November 27) that the SDP's victories are born out of frustration with the state of the Labour Party in almost certainly correct. His conclusion, which appears to be that if only the "moderates" like himself can regain the ground lost to the intransigent left within his party then the electorate will gratefully restore himself and his friends to office, is not.

There is a deeper reason than even insurgent Bennery for the contemporary marked preference for the SDP over the Labour Party which is being exhibited by the British electorate. That is that the SDP, unlike the Labour Party, even a Labour Party reconstituted according to the taste of Mr Hattersley, is not the political representative of a purely sectional interest.

I refer, of course, to the enormous influence wielded over Labour Party policy by the trade unions. It is no objection that the unions represent only one voice in the formation of policy; Mr Varley's recent promise to Parliament that legislation to end or curtail some of the legal immunities presently enjoyed by the unions will be revoked by an incoming Labour Government shows just how effective this influence is. Indeed, the quiet automatic puppet nature of this response to not obviously unfair proposals reminds one very strongly of certain Eastern European leaders' reactions to anything their fraternal friends to the East might be thought to object to.

It is exactly this blind refusal to acknowledge what undoubtedly worries very many people, trade unionists included, in this country that was responsible for the defeat of Labour in 1979 and will debilitate it from government in the future. When Mr Hattersley realises this he will be closer to understanding what sort of reconstitution the party requires. But of course by that time it will be too late to do him much good.

That reconstituted Labour Party already exists, though it has changed its name. And Mr Hattersley isn't in it.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HOWSON,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
November 25.

From the Reverend D. M. Clarridge

Sir, Tactical voting at by-elections is at least more honourable than tactical analysis of the results!

After Crosby the SDP and Liberal alliance are the greatest threat to the Conservatives at the next election. Is that why the Chairman of the Conservative Party says he sees them "letting Labour into office"?

Yours ironically,
D. M. CLARRIDGE,
The Vicarage,
Bampton,
Devon,
November 28.

Sponsors for engineers

From Mr Douglas Doughty

Sir, Your leader, "Wanted — a plan for skilled people" (December 2), is timely. In electrical engineering at a technological university, my job includes finding industrial companies willing to train our students as part of a thin sandwich course: this involves alternate periods of six months spent in industry and university, over a four-and-a-half year period.

Our students, and industry, say they like a system which provides practical "on the job" experience in parallel with college work. The professional institutions also approve. But we have insisted that students find for themselves, with our assistance of course, their own placements at competitive interview for industrial sponsorship.

But this year our numbers are down 30 per cent — mechanical and civils worse. Good students despair when they make many applications for sponsorship with leading companies without success. The bad news filters back to schools and leads to a further decline.

This happened once before in 1970 and was followed by a more general drop in engineering applications to university. Our sandwich system, built up over 25 years in cooperation with industry, is in severe danger of collapse.

No one would allow a doctor to practice without having walked the hospital wards during training. Why then expect a different standard for engineers for manufacturing industry?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS DOUGHTY,
11 King George Avenue,
Eusby,
Watford,
Hertfordshire,
December 3.

Far from clear

From Mrs Alice Boase

Sir, I know that your correspondence page is an unlikely venue for household hints, but in our household we have made a small but interesting discovery, for which we hope one of your readers will be able to provide a scientific explanation.

Why is it that if ice cubes are stored in fridge or freezer in a clear plastic bag they coalesce and are completely unusable, but if an opaque bag is used the cubes remain separate and ready for instant use?

Yours sincerely,
ALICE BOASE,
Linden Cottage,
Linden Chase,
Uckfield,
Sussex,
November 30.

Youth jobless schemes

From Mr Tom Pendry, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde (Labour)

Sir, In a short article in *The Times* (November 20) today you refer to the slow take-up of work placements on the youth opportunities programme in the York area. YOP is being considerably expanded by the Government, with the Prime Minister himself having given a pledge that every unemployed school leaver will be offered a place on the programme by the end of 1982.

The allegation therefore that young people are not taking up this offer has implications of "work-shy", and in my opinion deserves further examination.

YOP was set up under the previous Government to facilitate the transfer of young people from the dole queues into jobs. One of its basic principles was that many young people were ill-equipped to seek jobs, which would otherwise have been available to them.

At that time over 70 per cent of YOP trainees were successful in finding employment. Today the figure is less than 30 per cent. The programme is due to grow by 25 per cent in the next year alone, and serious reservations are being expressed about its original aims, but also about its unconstrained growth.

The need for closer supervision has been highlighted both by the trade unions and in recent debates in the House of Commons. There is increasing evidence that YOP trainees are being used as substitutes for permanent employees.

My own concern about lack of supervision on the scheme relates to safety standards, and in a

Conserving woodlands

From Mr George Marten

Sir, All who care for the appearance and condition of the countryside should be grateful to you for the space which you have devoted to the problem of our traditional woodlands.

No letter can do justice to the general complexity of the problem, but it is unfortunate that opinions expressed by this means tend to polarize views between those who approach the question academically and those who are faced with the bill of the wages, and the taxes which attach to the woods. The area involved is about 750,000 acres of generally high-quality land which we can ill afford to manage, either nationally or individually, in a manner which neglects its potential productivity.

It is clear that conditions do not at present exist in which sound economic management can fully accommodate the demands of conservation. The reasons are partly historical and partly the product of current policies. Forestry, agricultural depression, changing demand, the necessary depredations of two world wars, and urgent concerns for our future timber stocks have all played a part in changing the woodland scene, but perhaps the most important factor is the debilitating effect of capital taxation on owners, and through them, on woodlands themselves.

Broadleaved trees, whether planted or grown by natural regeneration from now on, will mature in the twenty-second century, and unless owners have the resources and the confidence to embark upon a century-long programme of management and care the hopes many of them share with members of the public will remain unfulfilled.

Neither public ownership, nor controls, nor grants, nor sheer

Space for thought

From Mr R. V. Bonavita

Sir, The recent expulsion of a German television team from Malta is typical of the inept arrangement of Dominic Mintoff's administration. The team had come out to produce a programme on the issues at stake in the coming general elections and it was kicked out after interviewing critics of the dockyard workers' treatment of the dockyard workers, the medical profession and (in my case) the University.

Of course the expulsion has done more damage to Mr Mintoff's image than anything I or other critics might otherwise have succeeded in achieving. It was a very silly thing to do.

My interview was short. The camera passed through 360 deg around our magnificent campus and came to rest on me. "Will you comment on the effects of the changes made by Mr Mintoff in the University?" asked the German interviewer. "No," I replied, "the first few metres of this film will suffice."

The campus was empty.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER VELLA BONAVITA,
Faculty of Education,
The University of Malta,
November 30.

The Guided One

From Mr Robert Hardy

Sir, Honoured as I felt to have been the subject of a piece in *The Times* (November 24), and much as I enjoyed the company of your Diarist, I am sad that in reporting my involvement with a television documentary about General Gordon in the Sudan, the subject of my "tackling the Mad Mahdi".

No one who has studied the history of the revolution led by Muhammad Ahmed Ibn Abdullah, the Mahdi, or who has had anything at all to do with such parts of British history as Sudan would like the choice of that adjective.

The Mahdi is properly regarded as an extremely important figure both in the religious and the political history of the Sudan, and that is how we are regarding him in the documentary programme.

I expect it was a slip of the pen, but it was a slip that might well give a wrong impression to those who represent the Sudan in this country, who are at present kindly disposed towards our enterprise.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARDY,
Upper Bolney House,
Upper Bolney,
Hendon on Thames,
Oxfordshire,
November 26.

Hampstead Heath

From Mr Anthony Norden

Sir, I was interested to read your letter (November 28) about Hampstead Heath from Mr Patrick McCormack, MP, at the time of the development adjacent to the Heath which "brightens" a loss of many mature trees.

Closer to home, but still near the Heath in Alexandra Park, many local residents have fought assiduously against the plans of the local Haringey Council to "cause the conversion of many acres of grass to amuse for children's play." This is part of a £34m scheme to develop Alexandra Park and Palace into an exhibition and leisure centre. These plans are, at least, the subject of a forthcoming inquiry by the Department of the Environment.

I would suggest that Alexandra Park, though far less well known than Hampstead Heath, is correspondingly in far greater need of protection.

Yours sincerely,
A. NORDEN,
61 Linzee Road,
N8,
November 28.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning visited the Job Centre at Old Swan, Liverpool, and the Liverpool Head Post Office.

Her Royal Highness was later entertained at Luncheon by the Chairman of J. Bibby and Sons Limited at Richmond House, and visited the Factory of J. Bibby

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-
-Chief of the 17th/21st Lancers,
later received Colonel M. C.
Watson, Colonel of the Regiment,
Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Swin-
burn upon relinquishing the
appointment as Commanding
Officer and Lieutenant-Colonel
B. G. Hamilton-Russell upon
assuming command of the
17th/21st Lancers.

On the march: Mayors, co-bridge yesterday on their local government local" c
Lo


Forthcoming marriages
Mr. D. H. Rainbridge

Mr A. G. Millman
and **Mrs K. P. Gant**

Mr. D. J. Ross
and Miss M. S. Owen
The engagement is announced
between David, son of Mr. and
Mrs. W. H. Ross of Oxnard

By Christopher Warman,
Arts Correspondent

where he saw but the photo of theatres and concert-halls which were individually designed by various architects of whom Harrison was one. The firm also designed two important commercial buildings of almost identical type, one of which Harrison built. In 1957 he received the gold medal of the American Institute of Architects. He married, in 1926, Ellen Humm Milroy by whom he had one daughter.


KYUNG-WAH CHUNG
Please send a donation,
large or small.
**Philip Crammer, Chairman,
MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT
FUND,
16 Ogile Street,
London W1P 7TG.**

In yesterday's sale report we stated that the collection of German Expressionist paintings sold by Sotheby's on Wednesday was looted by Gustav Ferdinand, a German businessman. The collection of German porcelain sold by Sotheby's in Zurich was erroneously described as coming from the same source.

and Mrs R. T. McPherson, the deputy chairman and Mrs G. C. Nichols, the treasurer and Mrs W. K. Gardner, the secretary, were also present. Other honorary officers and their residences: The High Commissioner for New Zealand, Mr J. H. Macdonald; The Commissioner for Canada, Mr A. D. Macpherson; The Ambassador of Egypt and Mrs Abernethy; The High Commissioner for India and Ceylon, Sir Cyril Austen; The High Commissioner for Australia, Mr F. L. Garland; The High Commissioner for China, Mr J. S. Macdonald; The President of the Board of Trade, Mr J. S. Macdonald; The Secretary of Service Banking and Commercial and Professional Institutions, Aldermen, Messrs J. S. Macdonald and J. S. Macdonald; The Corporation of London and their representatives.

The Speaker gave a dinner in the Speaker's House yesterday evening in honour of the South-Wales committee of the Variety Club of Great Britain. The guests were: Mr and Mrs Malcolm Abrahams, Mr John Adams, Mr Lyndsey Adams, Mr and Mrs Andy-Alexander, Mr and Mrs Norman - Bromley, the Hon Timothy and Mrs Saxton, Mr and Mrs J. H. Smith, Mr and Mrs J. D. Campbell, Mr Ted Cleveland, Mr and Mrs Michael Creighton-Griffiths, Mr Joseph Creighton-Griffiths, Mr and Mrs Derek Davies, Mr and Mrs Dino Forte, Miss Barbara Frieze, Mr and Mrs ...

British Association of Surgical Oncology.
The British Association of Surgical Oncology, The Marsden Surgical Society and the Farmaline Carlo Erba Dining Club have a dinner in honour of Professor Jerome J. DeCosse, president of the American Society of Surgical Oncology, this night at the Stafford Hotel, James's Place. Mr Ian Burn, president of BASO, presided and

He will have served the school for 17 years and carried out a major modernization programme costing £1½m. The Chapter of the Northern Division of Woodard Schools have appointed Mr Michael Vallance as his successor. He is at present Headmaster of Durham School, Chairman of the North East

An active member of the Society of West End Theatres, and associate member of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, he owned both the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, which he described as "perhaps the greatest theatre in the world — certainly in Britain" and

In his struggle for human rights, Spingulowski was an active member of the British group formed against the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union. His father, Zhigzniew, who was one of the accused in the 1954 Moscow trial of the 16 Polish under-

He was born on October 17, 1903 and educated at Pittsburgh Academy and Pittsburgh University where he took his MA and L.B. He

Lady Nicholson, wife of Sir John Nicholson, Bt, FRCS, died on November 27. She was the only daughter of the Rt. Rev. J. F. MacNeice, sometime Bishop of Down, and she was married in 1922. She was a sister of the poet Louis MacNeice.

...and the fact that the *in vitro* and *in vivo* results are in good agreement.

THE TIME Educational S

als that the gap
eam results in
ting wider

17/21st Lancers
The annual dinner of the 17/21st Lancers was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Colonel C. Watson, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

The British Heritage Cal-
endar of Villages with no-

Antique: robins in a sixteenth-century Italian painting by Vermicelli.
Home-made: drawing by usilla (aged six) of robin, perhaps a seagull coloured

Japanese: exquisite drawing of exotic birds which seems to suggest that they do not have robins in Japan.

He was appointed Carrick Pursuivant in 1946 and Piedmont Herald in 1957. He never left the family farm where he grew up, except for a visit to Rome during his brother's episcopate. Pope John XXIII died in June, 1963.

Lady Nicholson, wife of Sir John Nicholson, Bt, FRCS, died on November 27. She was the only daughter of the Rt. Rev. J. F. MacNance sometime Bishop of Down.

re County Cricket Club
for 45 years and was chair-
man for 10 years until 1972.
and she was married in 1928.
She was a sister of the poet
Louis MacNiece.

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Age Group	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
0-14	25	22	18	15	12	10
15-24	15	16	17	18	19	20
25-34	10	11	12	13	14	15
35-44	10	11	12	13	14	15
45-54	10	11	12	13	14	15
55-64	10	11	12	13	14	15
65+	10	11	12	13	14	15

Figure 1.1

Figure 1

THE ARTS

Television
Special
abilities

Alison French was one of the disabled people in the marvellous programme made or *Man Alive* in April by Ann Paul and Michael Dean another of whom, incidentally, the jubilant Steve Burton of ICI, has since qualified as a barrister and recently received a "Man of the Year" award alongside his like of Alan Wells and P.C. Lock. Alison is a 17-year-old asthetid spastic whose talents and determination are such that Paul and Dean decided to follow her progress through the rest of the year, and Roger Mills's *Forty Minutes* (BBC 2) series gave the ideal format in which to do so.

Whilst completing her time at the special school, Alison moved into a YWCA, sharing with three other girls. She ate noodles with a knife and fork and joked about chopsticks. She made up her lips for the school dance and cursed the fiddly eye-shadow box when it fell on the floor, retrieving it firmly and dabbing the shadow on more or less straight. She acquired a Scout boyfriend (he like him. Nobody else does) whose hair was dark at the start of the programme and blond by the end. She passed her driving test first time. Almost everything about her — intelligence, energy, humour and enthusiasm — developing all the time, but her speech is distorted, particularly under stress, and her unpredictable body is never still.

What can she do? Officials in her home town of Watford were helpful and impressed but not, I think, intimidated into gestures by the camera's presence — placed her on the Youth Opportunities programme until next month. Then what? "We've been separating the disabled from the able-bodied for too long," she said. "It's not good enough." She is right of course — the division did not exist when all families cared for their own for life — and it may be that, like Steve Burton of ICI, Alison French is destined to be an agent of reconciliation. That she has all the qualities for it in abundance nobody watching *Forty Minutes* would ever doubt.

Michael Ratcliffe

Christiane F. (X)

Studio, Oxford Street; Gate, Camden Town

Mädchen in Uniform (A)

Everyman

Tibet: A Buddhist Trilogy

I.C.A.

3-D Spectacular

I.C.A.

Force: Five (X)

Rialto

Christiane F., the phenomenally successful German film about a schoolgirl's life among West Berlin's drug addicts, does not open in London until December 17, but it has been shown to the press in advance to ease the log-jam of Christmas entertainment just around the corner. The film also chimes oddly with Leontine Sagan's *Mädchen in Uniform*, another film about schoolgirls which caused a scandalous sensation in a far different Germany 50 years ago. This can be seen in a newly subtitled print at the Hampstead Everyman from Sunday. Christiane's initial cloak, the identity of a young court witness whose interview with a journalist in 1978 provided twelve weeks of essential reading for the news magazine *Stern*. The film — a first cinema feature for the director Ulrich Edel — charts the descent of this teenager into an underworld where parents, homework and early bedtimes are unknown. She begins, aged 13 by visiting the Sound discotheque and asking for an innocuous cherry juice; within minutes she is staring at a dazed addict, the needle still dangling from a vein. On her fourteenth birthday she passes out chunks of birthday cake to streetwalkers by the Zoo railway station; desperate to keep pace with her new colleagues, she starts sniffing heroin and graduates to the syringe. Attempts to kick the habit are very painful and short-lived. There is a happy ending of sorts, at least for Christiane F.; others are not so lucky. Edel presents this stark narrative in a style of frenzied realism, taking his cameras to the real locations of

Christiane's drama wherever possible (the Zoo station itself, under the jurisdiction of East Berlin, had to be photographed by cameras concealed in suit cases). Visually the film glowers at the audience with its night landscapes of concrete canyons flecked with cold neon, its decrepit interiors sprouting vice and graffiti; David Bowie's music track, shrilling and sullen, provides a perfect complement. This urban hell is peopled by non-professional actors; Christiane herself is played, with remarkable skill, by a schoolgirl, Natja Brunckhorst.

The film's assured style, however, produces some seriously equivocal effects. On the surface this is a cautionary tale sufficient to sober up any wayward youngster, but bubbling underneath there are undeniable elements of exploitation. Edel dwells so long on the needle in the vein, the pen-knife pricking the skin (for a tattoo), that he approaches the threshold of the vicarious thrill. The faces of his girl addicts, too, have a sweet beauty that would not disgrace a piece of soft-core pornography. *Christiane F.* certainly presents a bold, disturbing picture of urban society; it also disturbs its own accord.

Fifty years ago the sensational aspect of *Mädchen in Uniform* consisted of a kiss on the mouth between two females. It takes far more to shock us now, but Leontine Sagan's film still deserves attention through cinematic merit alone. Sagan — one of the many shadowy figures haunting film history — was trained as a stage actress and director in Germany, but the film career that seemed to beckon after *Mädchen* (itself based on a stage play, by Christa Winsloe) never materialized. Alexander Korda brought her to England to try the same subject-matter — turbulent student life — with an Oxford setting, but the result, *Men of Tomorrow*, ran into post-production problems. Sagan turned back to the theatre; what is more, she turned to Ivor Novello and produced *Glorious Night*. She died in 1974, in South Africa.

Theatrical traditions play an important part in *Mädchen in Uniform*, but they enhance rather than cramp its style, because Sagan was working under the supervision of an experienced cinema craftsman, Carl Froelich. Sagan uses the grand staircase of the film's Potsdam boarding school like a place of stage décor; it provides an attractive background but also grows into a symbol of the school's regimented life and proves invaluable at the climax, when the film's leading "maiden", Manuela, submits to inner turmoil and prepares to throw herself down the stairs.

Sagan's theatrical background also shows in the controlled expressiveness of acting. The headmistress, as played



Natja Brunckhorst as Christiane

by Emilia Ueda, is a formidable creation, ruling her domain with a walking stick and sentiments like "Hunger is what made Prussia great" (scanty rations are a particular complaint of the girls). But most attention is thrown upon Manuela herself, painfully sweet and vulnerable in Hertha Thiele's performance, and Dorothea Wieck's equally vibrant Fraulien von Bernburg, the teacher whose affectionate feelings lead her to kiss all her pupils goodnight and lend Manuela one of her own cigarettes.

Over the years Sagan's carefully controlled psychological drama has been used as a benchmark for several causes. In the Thirties it was

praised and interpreted as an anti-Fascist document, though there is no conclusive proof that Manuela's emotional rebellion changes the school's harsh regime. In recent years the film has been rediscovered by feminists, left to its lesbian undertow. Both elements are certainly present — their combined force was sufficient for Goebbels to ban the film as unhealthy. But *Mädchen*, like its peripatetic director, refuses to be pigeon-holed. It combines cinematic fluidity with theatrical artifice — not a common achievement in the German cinema of 1931. Above all, it is a powerful tale — not about Fascism, not about feminism, but about the entire human spirit under threat.

Elsewhere in London, the ICA cinema is offering threatened human spirits rejuvenating trips to other worlds. *Tibet: A Buddhist Trilogy*, showing until December 20, is an astonishing achievement, made by a British team headed by Graham Coleman (writer and director) and David Lascelles (producer and photographer). Their camera penetrates into the most intimate corners of Tibetan life and thought: the lunar preparations for a ritual rightly known as "A Beautiful Ornament" — the careful burning of a departed member of the monastery community — the rapt face of a departed monk in contemplation. There is no omniscient narrator shaping and ordering these amazing sights; instead, the activities are explained by subtitles. In a manner entirely fitting for a portrait of Buddhist culture, the film-makers seem entirely at one with their subject; it is up to each spectator to open his or her eyes and mind to the wonders on display.

The ICA's other main attraction takes us into the world of three-dimensional cinema. "It's the biggest thing that's ever happened in our time!" shouts an ecstatic Richard Carlson in the 1953 production *It Came from Outer Space*, which launches the month-long season tomorrow. He is actually talking about the strange object which plummeted from nowhere into the Arizona desert, but his remark encapsulates all the hopes Hollywood put into the 3-D process. These films certainly provided passages impossible to capture on the movie's new rival, television, but audiences soon tired of wearing special glasses only to see poor films larded with novelty effects. There is fortunately little space for a discussion of *Force: Five*, a heinous concoction from the director Robert Clouse notable only for the way it twists the Jonestown story into a subject for kung-fu malarkey. Fowler would have been intrigued by the title's colour.

Geoff Brown

Theatre
Bulldog tenacity

Gypsy

Haymarket, Leicester

No point in pretending otherwise: the exceptional interest in Leicester's *Gypsy* has everything to do with Noele Gordon, a long-time featured player in a television programme called *Crossroads*. Had she not been relegated to exile from her soap opera just before taking on the musical role of Gypsy Rose Lee's mother, the attention might have been on the musical itself, following in the Leicester Haymarket's tradition of successes which include *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady* and *Oliver*.

Miss Gordon has not the primal force of Ethel Merman, nor the musical character of another predecessor, Angela Lansbury. Nor is it her singing that gives her the illusion of being a talent greater than her daughters June Havoc and Gypsy, but rather the kind of bulldog tenacity which she amply demonstrates in seizing the songs as dramatic recitations of ambition. With her as Rose, the most fearsome stage mother before the invention of Brooke Shields, it is a bit difficult to imagine tender emotions threatening her obsession with success.

Such gentle feelings matter in the finely constructed play, with music by Jule

Sydney, book by Arthur Laurents and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, for they modulate the inevitability of Gypsy Rose Lee's rise to the pinnacle of striptease fame by supplying romantic disappointments and vaudeville failures before they reach the bumps and grinds of stardom.

Although Miss Gordon contributes little to that, leaving such things to the long-suffering agent hand-somely played by Paul Maxwell, she does strike an image of a woman who cannot accept that her daughter's success is her own failure. Roger Redfern's production succeeds also as a piece of story-telling, but dancing is uninspired even where it is meant to be superior, which is not always. Discreetly costumed strippers in delivering banal bumps and lacy grinds do not ignite even the Styne music of "You've Got a Gimmick" or Gypsy's "Let Me Entertain You."

That does not help Fiona Fullerton, whose pale prettiness contradicts the character anyway despite her discipline and obvious charm. Terry Parsons has supplied a set that looks built to last, and despite quibbles it looks ready to entertain for a long time.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

BBCSO/Pritchard

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Man as hero, man as God as hero: religious and humanistic aspiration and glorification crossed their arbitrary borders and embraced on Wednesday in performances by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under their conductor-elect, John Pritchard, of Schubert's *A Mass* and Richard Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*.

Just as it is the strong-featured, Beethovenian Schubert as much as the gentle Biedermeier portrait that we see in this *Mass*, so it is very much the human and the heroic Christ that Schubert glorifies. In the exuberant Gluck's *Orpheus* welded as hard and bright as the brass, in the trombone's theatrical invocation to the Sanctus, and in the rhythmically and harmonically virile closing plea for peace, both orchestra and BBC Sym-

phony Chorus sharpened our awareness of the fact. Strauss was not alone in having "no particular liking" for his overblown autobiography of the creator-hero, the primary colours of his own portrait ebbing and flowing into the upturned faces of Kaiser Wilhelm II's Germany and the prophetic of an even later view of Nietzsche's Superman.

On Wednesday each solo voice even took on heroic proportions, brought well upstage, sometimes at the expense of immaculate unison and ensemble playing. Yet both in detail and in overall conception this was, on the whole, an unusually satisfying performance. Spacious in its power, elegant even in the use of baroque style than without some welcome ironic humour in its deftly assimilated turns of parody, it focused our attention above all on the super-hero of this work, Strauss as symphonist and orchestral craftsman.

Hilary Finch

Cambridge

University

Musical Society

King's Chapel

It was a model university concert at Cambridge on Wednesday, an experiment with the classics and a newish work by the local professor, Alexander Goehr's *Babylon* in the Great Hall, written for the BBC Symphony Chorus and slightly revised — usually, it seemed, in the direction of greater drama in choral writing.

Babylon is a large, four-movement choral cantata, built on biblical texts that speak of the ending of oppression, the rise of a Utopia and the return of disillusion and misery. The ideas are grand, and so are the musical effects: the work is conceived in broad strokes, with spells of brilliant, flustering, frenzied orchestral writing set against slow-moving, austere choral music. Much of the writing for chorus is fugue, and of that a good deal, especially in the first half, has a formal, academic ring, of music all too thoroughly worked out. Yet, as one listens on, and grasps the scale, so the design comes to make at the least retrospective sense. Though much in *Babylon* represents a new reading of an old choral tradition, much too is fresh and vivid — the various kinds of heterophony, which echoed so richly in

King's Chapel, or the big, hieratic effects painted with a large brush, with ringing choral sonorities against orchestral bustle. Orchestration was too difficult even for the skilled CUMS players and inevitably lost something of its glitter and its focus; but the choral writing was well served by these young voices. The composer con-
ducted.

One certain thing about Mozart's *Requiem* is the uncertainty as to how much Mozart actually wrote. Wednesday's performance divested it of the contribution of that "poor musician of very limited technique and ability" to quote Richard Maunder, the Cambridge mathematician responsible for this new version, on Sessumayr. Dr Maunder omits the "Sanctus" and "Gloria" which is reasonable, and also the "Benedictus". He has recomposed much of the "Lacrymosa" — interestingly, if with less sure a grasp of eighteenth-century style than Sussmayr — and supplied a slightly banal "Amen" chorus, after a Mozart sketch, to follow it. He has revised much of the orchestration, usually presenting Mozart's ideas more clearly and with more characteristic accompanying textures, and with some persuasive solutions to problems that baffled (or should have baffled) Sussmayr, though some changes seemed arbitrary. Philip Ledger conducted a rather speedy and unusually dramatic performance.

Stanley Sadie

Rock

Cliff Richard

Odeon, Hammersmith

It may not have been Bruce Springsteen but neither, quite emphatically, was it the all-round entertainment of a Tommy Steele. On Wednesday Cliff Richard, at 41, gave a bona fide rock and roll show in which, by contrast with last year's over-produced ragbag, he managed to reconcile virtually all the phases of a 23-year career.

By now it has to be accepted that he is prone to startling lapses of taste, like the inevitably appalling show and the use of a Walkman cassette machine as a prop in "Wired for Sound", and that his dreadful boyish humour, less camp than holiday-camp, has long obscured some of his deeper rock and roll qualities. This time, however, in a second half which celebrated the early years of the music, he again mysteriously became the snake-haired lad of Oh Boy, driving through "Dynamite", Johnny Kidd's "Shakin' All Over", Little Richard's "Long Tail Sally"

and the Everly Brothers' arrangement of "Lucille" (a wonderfully imaginative touch) with an enjoyment which verged on abandon.

The rearrangement of Presley's "Teddy Bear" in the style of "Suspicious Minds" may have been merely perverse, and the immortal "Move It" was ruined by gratuitous anachronisms, but "Gee Whiz it's You", "Daddy's Home" and several others glowingly kept faith with their original models. The close harmonies of "Daddy's Home" drew particular attention to the brilliantly sympathetic work of the three backing singers, directed by Tony Rivers, who had earlier provided skilful assistance in the trilogy of "Don't Talk to Him", "Miss You Nights" and "We Don't Talk Any More" which closed a first half consisting mainly of a brisk canter through Cliff's recent high-tech power-pop style, at its best in "Dreaming" but now surely — unlike the performer — due for renovation.

Richard Williams

Opera

Brook's enhancing vision



Eva Saurava's sultry Carmen, with Julian Pike

he came to Paris and there is none at the Bouffes, just a few sacks of straw, a dirty carpet and a playing area where she sits the dust and grit of Andalusia.

Jose seals his destiny at the start of the opera. To Bizet's fate motif, played by an orchestra of 14 at the back of the stage — so much for singers who keep their eyes on the conductor rather than on one another — he ignores a playing card offered him by an old beggar woman, Micaela, who follows him, takes hers and gives a coin in exchange. Thereafter for Jose it is downhill all the way, particularly as that beggar turns out to be Carmen with a flower as well as a pack of cards.

As played by Julian Pike, Jose is not the handsome soldier of grand opera but a spiky-haired tearaway, who has joined the army because life was becoming too hot for him in his native Basque country. Infatuation with Carmen forces him to murder. He strangles his superior officer, Zuniga, out of jealousy. He knifes Garcia in a duel and rejoices when he learns that for once it is Escamillo and not the bull who dies. Finally, when Carmen withdraws what little love she has for him, he stabs her in the back as the percussion softly plays the ebbing heartbeat of the Habanera. As in Merimee, Jose lives on to tell his bloody story.

Peter Brook narrates in close-up, such as his violent emotions, and using the most familiar of Bizet's melodies to make his dramatic points. As Escamillo reaches the climax of his aria of self-glorification the corpse of Zuniga rolls off its supporting pile of sacks. Micaela's relief in "Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante" comes from the fact that the cadaver she loves is that of Garcia and not Jose. Carmen comes back to Jose at the end of the Flower Song because it is an irresistible number and together they go off to the mountains for their only hours of contentment.

As the orchestra plays the

La tragédie de Carmen

Les Bouffes du Nord, Paris

Peter Brook's *Les Bouffes du Nord*, tucked away by the railway with a running time of 100 minutes, remains a bright beacon in a dingy corner of Paris. Little has changed since he moved in here seven years ago with a *Timon of Athens*. A little more rubble off his shell of a theatre and the interior back wall has blackened even further; the seats may be a shade more comfortable than they were. The enthusiasm of the public though seems to grow by the year. And rightly so.

The ticket-holders for the sold-out houses of *Carmen* queue up outside the doors an hour before the start so that they can seize the best places in a theatre where, at a flat £5 a head, none of the seats is reserved. Forty minutes later the auditorium is virtually full, apart from the top balcony. Brook followers know that the closer to the action you are the better. For his version of *Carmen* there are no latecomers, and they are welcome.

When Bernard Lefort of the Paris Opera approached Brook with the suggestion of a co-production with the Bouffes du Nord both *From the House of the Dead* and *The Turn of the Screw* were on the shopping list. Brook, ever unpredictable, countered with *Carmen*, an opera composed when the Bouffes was its first heyday. So *Carmen* it was, and Brook promised that it would be different, what was rather important to Lefort, who had planned a series of starry performances of that very opera at the Palais des Sports.

Peter Brook has certainly kept his word. And in doing so he has favoured neither Bizet's librettists, Meilhac and Halévy, who are much out of fashion at the moment, nor the provider of their original source, Prosper Merimee, who is right in favour. From "Chers Miel" et Halévy, as Bizet used to call them, Peter Brook and his collaborator, Jean-Claude Carrière, have retained Micaela, who was not in the book, and even elevated her to a serious rival to Carmen for Jose's affections. From Merimee they have restored the villainous Garcia, Carmen's man, who was not in the opera.

For the rest Bizet's drama has been stripped down to its barest bones to become a tale of fate and murder told in 30 minutes. Brook has shown little taste for spectacle since

John Percival

Dance
Relationships in pairs

London
Contemporary

Sadler's Wells

This week's programme by London Contemporary Dance Theatre at Sadler's Wells includes four works new to that stage. The most substantial is *Free Setting*, in which Shobhan Davdani collaborated with Michael Finnissy and David Buckland, allowing their ideas about (respectively) the music and design to influence her approach to the choreography.

Finnissy's score for solo piano imposes a strong rhythm with much variety of volume and pace. Davies' sketches taken over from an experimental season at The Place last summer. All reveal bright ideas which are only partly translated into terms of movement.

Philip Taylor, casting himself as a man dreaming of being a baseball star, em-

life, to conceal or reveal parts of the stage according to their position and the way they are lit. Davies deploys her cast of 10 mostly in the duets which seem to be her favourite form of dance; she and Patrick Harding-Irmer, Anca Frankenhäuser, and Philippe Girardeau have the most extensive explorations of movement relationships. The effect of appearing or disappearing behind the screens has perhaps prompted the similar use she makes of the sides of the stage.

By comparison with her gently paced and extensively developed work, other new pieces are brief and hectic: three 10-minute sketches taken over from an experimental season at The Place last summer. All reveal bright ideas which are only partly translated into terms of movement.

Philip Taylor, casting himself as a man dreaming of being a baseball star, em-

plays steps from disparate sources amusingly, but too indulgently to build any sense of style. Sals Eto's shouted commentary (these dancers are unusually versatile) is the best thing in *The Bomber*.

Jayne Lee took an idea from Dylan Thomas for *Recall* and Darshan Bhullar from Achille Fougard for *Beyond the Law*; but neither succeeds in making clear the purpose or attitudes through the choreography. Lee has some interesting relationships of shape and space among her three dancers; Bhullar sets Michael Small and Lida Sanderson moving with intense energy. His work gains impact from Jon Kelleher's angry rock score, in the performance of which Eleanor Alberca completes an impressive series of contributions to the evening as pianist, cheerleader and percussionist in successive works.

John Percival

Society of West End
THEATRE AWARDS
5 Nominations

<p>ALL MY SONS</p> <p>WYNHAM'S THEATRE</p> <p>ROSEMARY HARRIS</p> <p>Actress of the Year in a Revival</p>	<p>CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD</p> <p>ALBERT THEATRE</p> <p>TREVOR EVE</p> <p>Actor of the Year in a New Play</p>	<p>CANT PAY? WONT PAY!</p> <p>CRITERION THEATRE</p> <p>COMEDY OF THE YEAR</p>
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"A very beautiful film" "Absorbing" "Beautifully photographed"

"Splendidly played by Ugo Tognazzi. A joy to look at" — *Daily Mail*

A film by Bernardo Bertolucci
Ugo Tognazzi Anouk Aimée

The Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man

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[illegible]

Business News

THE TIMES Friday December 4 1981

THE STRUCTURAL GROUP
WITH STRENGTH IN DEPTH
ATCOST
01-493 0802

Sterling and mark fall despite interest cuts

Interest rate movements dominated currencies on the world's financial markets yesterday. The pound and the Deutschmark both lost ground after cautious cuts in rates, while the dollar made substantial gains on expectations that American rates may have bottomed for the time being.

The pound fell below \$1.93 at one stage on news of the half point cut in bank base rates to 14½ per cent. It recovered to finish London trading down 1.30 cents on the day at \$1.9350. The index measuring its wider international value lost 0.4 to stand at 91.4, reflecting slight weakness against Continental currencies.

In Europe, the Deutschmark and the Swiss Franc weakened after the German Federal Bank cut its special Lombard rate by 1 point from 11 to 10½ per cent. This was swiftly followed by the Swiss National Bank which cut its Lombard rate from 7½ to 7 per cent.

Herr Karl Otto Poehl, the federal bank's president, said the special Lombard cut had been confined to 1 per cent because of the risk of fuelling inflation and the need to maintain the improvement in the balance of payments current account.

The move surprised some sections of the currency market which had not expected any cut, in view of the Deutschmark's recent weakness and firming United States interest rates. It lost 1.32 pence to the dollar, closing in London at \$1-DM 2.2302.

Herr Poehl also announced yesterday that next year's target band for the domestic money supply would be 4 to 7 per cent, the same as in 1981 and hoped it would be possible to aim for the middle or upper half of the band.

European deposit rates rose by about 1 percentage point on growing expectations that United States interest rates may not fall much further in the short term. Dealers point out that the United States money supply figures have shown increases for three successive weeks—which may discourage the Federal Reserve Board from fresh relaxation of its monetary stance.

One key Fed funds rate—the rate at which banks lend each other reserves in the money market—was trading yesterday at between 12½ and 13 per cent, more than a full percentage point above last week's low. American banks are unlikely to cut their prime lending rates from the present level of 15½ or 15½ per cent to which they moved earlier this week without a further downward move in the cost of funds.

The Stock Market appeared unimpressed with the latest 3 per cent cut in base rates to 14½ per cent and showed its dissatisfaction by marking prices sharply lower. (Michael Clark writes).

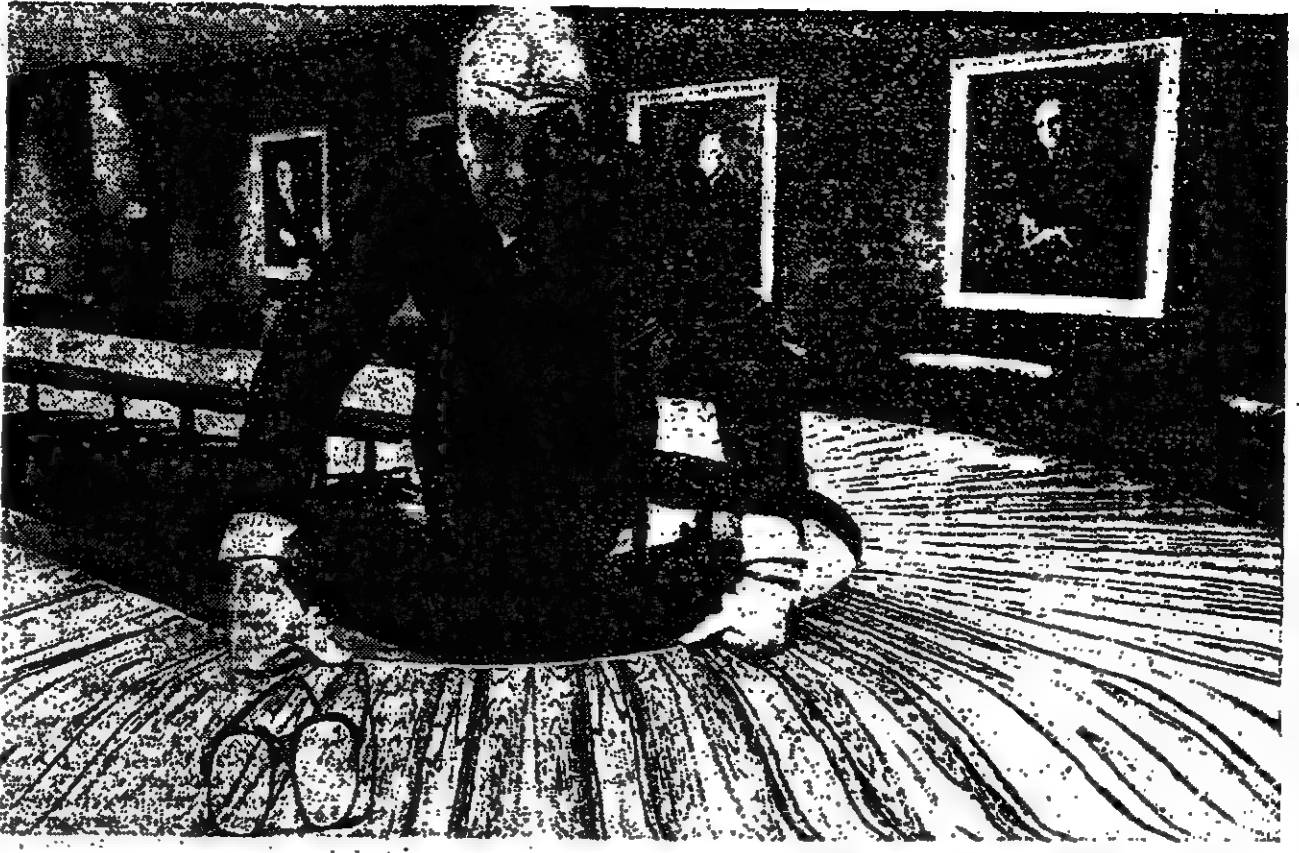
After being 11.8 down at one stage, the FT Index of 30 leading shares eventually closed 11.1 lower, at 519.9 amid persistent selling.

Many dealers said the cut had already been discounted as being too little, too late, and aimed to sweeten the Chancellor's latest package of economic measures. Despite the Government's optimistic noises about a gradual return to growth the market remains far from convinced that this is actually the case.

So, with the current account due to and later today, investors decided now was the best time to take profits.

In addition, trading news from GEC, Plessey and BP fell short of expectations and with many investors already holding positions in all three groups, ahead of the figures, profit taking left all of them lower on the day.

Gilt too, were clearly disappointed by the 1 per cent fall and showed losses of up to 50p in places at the close in light trade.



Plessey and GEC show higher first-half profits

GEC, Britain's biggest electrical group, reported half-time profits almost a third higher at £247.8m (Paul Maitland writes). The increase was agreed by shareholders at a general meeting in Plessey, the military and telecommunications group whose chairman Sir John Clark (pictured) announced six-monthly profits of £51.3m. The results were better than analysts had predicted, but the share prices of both companies fell in a weaker stock market. GEC dropped 15p to 779p and Plessey fell 10p to 331p. GEC is raising its half-time dividend by 21.4 per cent to 607p gross, but Plessey did not declare a dividend. Sir John said that Plessey had recently won orders worth £100m to add to contracts worth £1,200m covered in the figures to the end of September. The new orders include a £60m contract for avionics communications in the Middle East. Plessey has also won a study project for a new sonar system for the United States Navy.

Burmah oil loses £3m corporation tax appeal

By Drew Johnston

Burmah Oil yesterday lost its legal battle over a £3m corporation tax assessment made in 1971. The House of Lords allowed an appeal of the Inland Revenue and overturned a Scottish Court of Session decision that the company was entitled to claim a capital loss arising from the liquidation of a subsidiary.

The unanimous judgment of the five Law Lords also confirmed an earlier decision of the House this year, in the case of W. T. Ramsay Limited versus Inland Revenue Commissioners, which one of the judges, Lord Scarman, said marked a significant change in the House's judicial role towards tax avoidance.

Burmah claimed a capital tax allowance of £160m as a result of a complex series of transactions revolving around the transfer of its shareholdings in BP to one of its subsidiaries. The subsidiary later went into voluntary liquidation, giving rise to the tax loss claim.

This BP shareholding subsequently featured in another legal tussle with the Bank of England. The Bank had shares in BP to the Bank of England as part of a deal to save the company from liquidation in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. Last July Burmah heard that it had finally lost its case that the Bank had acted unfairly in buying Burmah's 20 per cent holding in BP for less than the company claimed it was worth.

In the Revenue's case against Burmah, Lord Diplock said it seemed the only real asset involved in the complex round of bookkeeping transactions was the parent company's holding of BP shares.

This artificially led to a warning by Lord Scarman: "It is of the utmost importance that the House should not be misled by the Ramsay case into the approach adopted by this House in its judicial role towards tax avoidance schemes."

Burmah said yesterday that the decision would not result in any immediate cash outflow from its reserves. It said the capital loss would have been available for the offset only against capital gains made by the company since 1971, and any gains that might arise in the future.

Royal Bank profits up £5.4m

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

The Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday reported improved annual profits and a 10 per cent increase in dividends.

Meanwhile, the Monopolies Commission is believed to be putting the final touches on its eagerly-awaited report on the two rival bids for Royal Bank from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered. The report has yet to reach Mr John Siffen, the Trade Secretary and a decision looks unlikely before Christmas.

Royal Bank's profits in the year to September rose from £102.5m to £107.9m pre-tax and the year's dividend is 7.7p gross. The results were a surprise to the City which expected a fall in profits of between £12m to £15m, after the fall of nearly one-fifth to £42m at the half-year. Yesterday the shares closed 2p higher at 190p.

Williams and Glyn's Royal Bank's English subsidiary accounted for most of the profit rise with an increase from £51.5m to £56.1m before tax while the Scottish division was marginally ahead from £50.3m to £51.4m.

Advances grew, Royal Bank said, by 19 per cent but average base rates were lower and the switch from current to interest bearing deposits continued. Group staff was trimmed by about 200 as part of a cost saving programme.

Sir Michael Herries, the group's chairman re-affirmed his support for a merger with Standard Chartered and said the subsequent bid from Hongkong Bank was not approved by the Bank of England and Royal Bank believed that over-

Jim Slater set to make £1.2m profit

By Peter Walker
Financial Editor

Mr Jim Slater once a self-confessed "minor millionaire" yesterday made a potential £1.2m profit through a bid for Laganvale. Estate his quoted Belfast property company. The offer is from Stur's Holdings, a financial services group headed by Mr Bob Knight, a former general manager of Mercantile Credit, which rescued Stur's five years ago.

Stur's is bidding £4.5m in varying forms of share paper for Laganvale into which Mr Slater injected his privately-owned Stur's Group company last April. At one time, Mr Slater, "my" Rowland, of Laganvale had an interest in Stur's.

If Mr Slater holds on to his share stake he will end up with 11 per cent of the Stur's equity. But he will not be joining the board, Mr Knight said yesterday. "He is not interested in helping to run a financial services group," he said. The question of Mr Slater joining the board did not even come up.

Stur's offer has been backed by the Laganvale board and holders of 46 per cent of the Laganvale shares have undertaken irrevocably to accept 85 per cent of the offer for the deal is being underwritten by Rowe Rudd, headed by Mr Tony Rudd, a former stockbroker.

Mr Slater, the financier who resigned from Slater Walker, continued group with Mr Peter Walker, before he became Minister of Agriculture, is now a writer of children's stories. The collapse of Slater Walker left him, in his own words, "a minor millionaire".

After Slater Walker came under the protective wing of the Bank of England, the financier failed in an attempt

Sizewell B reactor cost £1,000m

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Construction costs of Britain's first pressurized water reactor, which is planned to be built at Sizewell in Suffolk, are likely to be about £1,000m.

The National Nuclear Corporation, the industrial consortium which is responsible for designing and building Britain's nuclear power stations, is due to produce an indicative cost estimate for the Sizewell B station shortly after approval for the design was given by the Central Electricity Generating Board in October.

Last night Mr Jim Stewart, a corporation board member and chairman of the British Nuclear Forum gave some indications of the likely cost in a lecture delivered in London.

He said that on the basis of prices prevailing in June this year, the cost of an American generic design of a single 1,100 megawatt PWR plant was \$780m compared with an estimated cost for the present British design, it was to be built in the United States of \$940m.

In round figures the United Kingdom designed power plant alone, excluding site, fuel and other costs, would be about £600m which would be swollen by a further £250m in associated engineering costs.

"I believe we have a sound and safe design of plant, which is readily constructable and is backed by a great depth of experience," he said.

The Sizewell B project is to be the subject of a public inquiry next year. The project is to order new nuclear power station a year over the next decade.

Germans in technology pact

From Peter Newman, Frankfurt, Dec 3

Three of West Germany's largest industrial concerns have agreed to cooperate in the rapidly growing field of telecommunications technology.

AEG-Telefunken, Robert Bosch and Mannesmann today announced a complex series of new cross holdings in existing telecommunications subsidiaries that are intended to give the three companies the capacity to offer internationally a full programme of products in information and communications technology.

The agreements will also inject a large amount of capital into the AEG-Telefunken group which, under the agreements, will sacrifice control of what is generally regarded as one of the most promising of its subsidiaries.

The company's 41 per cent stake in Telefunken and Normat, the communications concern will go into a holding company in which Bosch, with a stake of 75.5 per cent against AEG-Telefunken's 24.5 per cent, will have complete control.

It has already been arranged that the holding company should exercise an option held at present by AEG to buy 10 per cent of Telefunken shares and so obtain control of the company by the beginning of 1983.

AEG will retain control of its existing telecommunications and cable division. This will be lived off to form a separate company in which AEG will hold 51 per cent, Bosch and Mannesmann 20 per cent each and the Allianz Insurance group the remaining nine per cent.

AEG, Bosch and Mannesmann have agreed to form a planning company to strengthen their cooperation in the telecommunications sector.

Where Bosch pays for its joint control of T and N in this agreement reached to determine the future of AEG-Telefunken's loss making Olympia office equipment and typewriter division. AEG is writing off 49 per cent of its 100 per cent stake in Olympia's DM130m capital. A holding company, in which the Dresdner Bank, the Deutsche Bank and Westdeutsche Landesbank have indirect stakes, will then subscribe to new shares, bringing the level of capitalization back to DM130m.

The outline of this complex transaction played an important part in securing the agreement of AEG bankers for a write off of DM240m of group debt at the end of this year and an undertaking to provide the company with further financial support to the end of 1983.

Small-business loans scheme will be reviewed

By Derek Harris

The Government's guarantee scheme aimed at encouraging bank lending to small businesses will be re-examined by the Department of Industry in the New Year after unexpectedly high demand for loans.

This was indicated in London yesterday by Mr John MacGregor, the secretary for industry with responsibility for small businesses, at a conference on starting up in business organized by the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC).

Mr MacGregor, the corporation's general manager, said it was investing £100m a year in 1,000 businesses of which 400 were just starting up.

Loans worth £52.5m have also been guaranteed since the scheme started at the beginning of June. Reports are circulating of about six first month of such a scheme would not necessarily persist, as screening methods improved with experience. It seems unlikely that a judgment would be considered by the Government until the scheme has been operating for a reasonable period.

More than half the loans have been taken up by new businesses.

The role of small businesses in creating jobs and helping restructure the economy was emphasized by Mr MacGregor. The Department of Industry's small firms advisory service had dealt with double the number of inquiries in the first nine months of this year, he said.

Talks among ethnic business communities in Britain have been started by Mr MacGregor. Aid for small business were discussed yesterday.

High bad debt ratio in the

Stock Markets

FT Index 519.9 down 11.1
FT 100 Index 64.05 down 0.25
FT All Share Index 309.03 down 3.94
Bargains 17.537

Sterling

£19350 down 180 points
Index 91.4 down 0.4

Dollar

Index 106.0 up 0.5
DM2.2302 up 13.2 points

Gold

\$416.00 up \$6.25

Money

3 month sterling 15½-14½
3 month Euro \$ 13-12½
6 month Euro \$ 13½-13

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Bracken Mines 9p to 129p
Causton Sir J 3p to 29p
Churchbury Est 10p to 675p
Elphing Gold 7p to 137p
Kinross 32p to 633p
Middle Wits 20p to 650p
Pauls & Whites 8p to 184p
Rustledge & K 12p to 140p
Rustenburg 8p to 234p
Scapa Grp 7p to 160p
UC Invest 13p to 640p

Falls

APV Hides 15p to 218p
BP 12p to 289p
Beustead 8p to 108p
Britannic 8p to 262p
GEC 10p to 779p
Glen 10p to 412p
Laguna 13p to 459p
Nat Westminster 10p to 389p
Pittsburgh Bros 12p to 268p
Ranger Oil 20p to 445p
Smiths Ind 13p to 539p

Beer output falls 15 pc

Beer production at 3 million bulk barrels of 36 gallons each, plus 15.1 per cent in October compared with the same month last year, the Brewers' Society said yesterday. It means beer production was down 5.6 per cent in the first ten months of the year on a monthly comparison and fears are growing in the trade that by the year end production could be down 7 per cent or more overall.

Sales reports indicate that trade of beer are down by more than 6 per cent at present, the Society said. The October returns could reflect some of the effects of price increases of around 4p a pint put through by many brewers over the past two months; but the impact of price increases particularly in the south of England has yet to show up.

A French news agency report said yesterday that President Mitterrand has told Algeria he is prepared to pay between \$5.25 (£2.70) and \$5.35 per million BTU for Algerian gas, a rise of \$1. The price would raise the cost of the gas to more than the oil products it would replace and compares with the \$4.70 at which a Soviet delegation is expected to offer Soviet gas to France.

Three French shipyards employing 11,700 people are to merge under the country's nationalization plans. They are the France-Dunkirk yard in the North and the Seyne and Clotat yards in the South.

Contracts for equipment worth £27.2m were announced by the Coal Board yesterday. They go mainly to companies in Scotland, the North of England and the West Midlands.

Young workers subsidy starts

The Young Workers Scheme, announced in July, comes into operation on Monday, when employers will be able to claim Government allowances of as much as £15 a week for each employee under 18 in his first year of full time employment.

An employer will be able to claim £15 for each young employee whose gross average earnings are under £40 a week, and £7.50 a week for each employee whose gross average earnings are between £40 and £45 a week.

A total of 1,512 guarantees, worth £52.6m, have been issued under the Government's loan guarantee scheme up to the end of November, Mr John MacGregor, the Industry Minister, told a business start-up conference in London yesterday. New businesses accounted for 857 guarantees, worth £28.3m.

BP profits fall £286m

British Petroleum made third-quarter net profits of £203m, against £209m last year. Net profits for the first nine months of this year fell £286m to £799m. Chemicals continued to lose heavily, although the rate was slightly down at £49m. Historic earnings per share for the nine months are down from 68.3p to 48.4p.

Financial Editor, page 17

Mr Christopher Hawkins, deputy chairman of Northern Foods, is to join the Avana board, after the company's increase of its investment in Avana to 20.5 per cent. Dr John Randall, chairman of Avana, becomes a Northern Foods non-executive director.

Export orders, worth more than £1m, and won in four days, were announced by Dale Electric, of Eley, Yorkshire, which makes generating sets. The orders, for Nigeria, Iran and Yemen, lift the company's order book to more than £5m, and the group's to £28m.

Mr Sherman Unger, commerce general counsel, told a senate judiciary subcommittee hearing that President Reagan will discuss today the effect

Mobil plans new bid

Mobil is planning to bid again for Marathon Oil, but this time in conjunction with another oil company. Mobil hopes that a joint bid, details of which have yet to be announced, will circumvent anti-trust legislation.

The battle between US Steel and Mobil for Marathon looks more and more like being decided in the courtroom rather than on the stock exchange. Yesterday, a Cincinnati federal appeals court denied Mobil's request for a stay of a lower court order enjoining its bid. It was the second such rebuff.

US Steel, which bid \$125 (£65) a share for 51 per cent of Marathon, America's 17th biggest oil company, is the Marathon board's preferred bidder. But Mobil has replied with a second bid of \$126 a share, also for 51 per cent, which values Marathon at \$5,500m. The eventual cost is likely to be higher, making it the biggest bid in history.

On Wednesday, 15 speciality steel firms filed anti-trumping suits against several nations, including Britain.

In Brussels, the EEC commission denied that there is a secret EEC offer to negotiate an orderly steel marketing arrangement with the United States.

BP profits fall £286m

'Encouraging second half for Bellway'

K. Bell, Chairman

For Bellway Limited, a leading national housebuilder, the second half year's pre-tax profits showed significant improvement on the first half of the financial year.

Highlights for the year ending 31st July 1981 are as follows:

Turnover	£26,004,000
Pre-tax profits	£1,778,000
Post-tax profits	£1,259,000
Dividends (maintained)	7p per share
Earnings per share	9.7p

For a copy of the 1981 Annual Report contact:
Company Secretary, Bellway p.l.c., Dobson House,
The Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3LT. Tel. (0632) 850121

Developments in the South East, North, Midlands, North West, North East of England and Scottish Lowlands.

Bellway p.l.c.

GKN gives assurance on motor spares

By Clifford Webb,
Midlands Industrial
Correspondent

Mr Roy Roberts, GKN managing director is trying to dispel the increasing concern of motor manufacturers, the company's biggest customers that GKN intends to use its "muscle" to increase the competitiveness of its fast-growing replacement parts and accessory business.

GKN Autoparts, with a network of 150 wholesale outlets, is a direct competitor of the motor manufacturers' own extensive and profitable spares business which was launched only four years ago, already has an annual turnover of £60m and employs 1,900 people.

Speaking at the opening of a £1.5m Autoparts national distribution centre at Weedon near Northampton, Mr Roberts said: "We do not regard our distribution activities merely as an outlet for our manufactured products. Indeed they form, and will form, only a small proportion of the goods we distribute."

"Suppliers may therefore have confidence that we do not intend to move backwards up the chain and commence manufacture of items not currently in our portfolio. We are present in the market as distributors and traders and our management is aware that it has to make it work independently."

It is understood that GKN manufactured parts will be restricted to 10 per cent of its range of spares and accessories.

Although Mr Roberts' statement is aimed ostensibly at companies supplying Autoparts, it will help to allay the fears of manufacturers that Britain's biggest engineering group would undercut their prices by producing a range of parts expressly for the £2,700m a year market.

By cutting out the middleman and selling direct from the factory, they feared that GKN would make big inroads into the motor trade's most profitable sector.

GKN's decision to reduce its dependants on the supply of original equipment to Britain's shrinking motor industry has also seen it pushing into overseas markets.

Mr Roberts disclosed that since it acquired Parts Industries Corporation in the United States, it had tripled its parts turnover.

More textiles jobs at risk, union says

By Rupert Morris

Brussels and Geneva will become the graveyards of the British clothing industry, if the Government fails to take a stronger line in negotiations on renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, Mr Alec Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, said yesterday.

He told members of the Clothing Institute in Glasgow that concessions by the Government on the issues of base levels, rates of growth and import quotas had put the future of the clothing industry into doubt as never before.

"Ministers, in all honesty, cannot be said to have sold the pass because they have simply given it away," he said.

The industry had thought that ministers were aware of its concerns, and were prepared to stand firm against the threat of cheap clothing imports. The Government's concessions had destroyed the possibility of giving special treatment to the developing countries.

Mr Peter Rees, the Minister for Trade, had been given the wrong brief, and if the damage was not repaired, it would put many more out of work.

Textile and clothing employers have already made similar complaints, and Mr Ian MacArthur, director of the British Textile Confederation, said that if the Government failed to secure EEC agreement on 1982 quotas, at least 30,000 jobs would be immediately at risk.

Since January last year 150,000 textile and clothing jobs have been lost. A further 30,000 jobs will go if the Government fails to achieve a tough new agreement at next week's meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers in Brussels.

Recession and the adverse impact on demand has meant that most MFA quotas on low

cost imports have not been fully used.

It is therefore crucial that future import access in the third agreement is related to the level of actual imports in 1980, the last year for which figures are available, rather than 1982 quota levels, set in the more prosperous mid-1970s as stated by the British Government.

Textile and clothing industrialists and trade unions are alarmed that the Government has failed to respond to the demands of the industry which employs 600,000 people, more than those employed in the motor industry or the coal mining and steel.

The issue is whether the level of imports of textiles and clothing allowed from low wage countries such as Hongkong and South Korea should be reduced to take account of the United Kingdom's recession or whether 30,000 British workers should lose their jobs because of rising imports.

□ Meanwhile there has been progress in talks to renew the arrangement which expires in December 31, although progress on several secondary aspects has been made.

Japan has joined textile exporting developing countries in voicing its opposition to the EEC's proposed "surge mechanism", which would allow for tighter restraints to prevent sharp increases in textile and apparel imports.

It also criticized the community's plan to allow part of some import quotas to be reserved for outwardly processed goods, or clothing made in an exporting country with raw materials bought from the ultimate importer.

The community wants the new MFA to be more restrictive so that market disruption by imports can be prevented.

The other key participant in the Geneva talks, the United States, is satisfied with the terms



Ron Dearing and Kenneth Baker start the Mount Pleasant computer.

Post Office launches electronic mailing

By Our Technology Correspondent

The Post Office has launched what it claims is the world's first mass electronic mailing service.

Mr Ron Dearing, Post Office chairman, and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, inaugurated "Electronic Post" yesterday by switching on a computer at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in London. It started the transmission of several thousand promotional letters from Reader's Digest, the first customer, to homes in the Manchester area.

The service is intended for large companies which already use computers to write and address large numbers of letters. They can now give the Post Office their magnetic tapes containing the message to be transmitted (with simple graphics, letter-head and signature) and a full address list.

The Post Office computer then transmits the data via British Telecom to the receiving Electronic Post centre, where the letters are laser-printed, addressed and sorted for delivery through the normal postal system.

Electronic Post is a hybrid between new information technology and traditional hand-delivered mail service. It is quite different from recently introduced "electronic mail" systems, such as Prestel's Mailbox, which use videodata networks to transmit a message from the screen of one individual to another.

The Post Office will run Electronic Post for an 18-month trial period between the London and Manchester areas (which together cover one third of the 22 million addresses in Britain). If customer response is good, it will be extended later to cover the whole country.

Unexpected increase in Soviet trade with Finland

By Michael Frenchman

Finland will receive an unexpected boost to its economy with the 1982 trade agreement with the Soviet Union, which allows for a 20 per cent increase in trade between the two countries.

The protocol spelling out details of the 31,000 million

Finn Mark (£3,700m) deal was signed in Helsinki this week.

About half the 104 vessels on order with Finnish shipyards are for the Soviet Union. These orders, worth £1,130,000m, are for specialised oil exploration and supply ships for the Arctic and Siberia.

Finland is also building steel, paper and woodwork projects inside the Soviet Union. Yesterday's agreement will see the Finns build 25 villages and pumping stations along the new Siberian natural gas pipeline.

to 1995 — one of the longest agreements which the Russians have made with a non-communist country. Details are settled annually. The surprising fact in the 1982 agreement is that the terms were expected to be reduced because of the £1,130,000m imbalance of trade in Finland's favour.

Under the latest trade deal, exports to the Soviet Union will rise from £1,400m for next year instead of being cut.

Technology

How two bombs can immobilize NATO

By Clive Cookson

By exploding just two powerful hydrogen bombs above the atmosphere — one over Western Europe and the other over North America — the Soviet Union could immobilize almost every NATO country without directly killing or injuring anyone or destroying any property by blast or heat.

The Russians would be making use of a phenomenon known as electromagnetic EMP. Western military planners are becoming increasingly alarmed by the EMP threat, as they call it. And they are beginning to speak in public about a danger that they have worried about for years in the secrecy of their research establishments.

The Institution of Electrical Engineers had a discussion on EMP in London recently to bring the subject into open scientific discussion. Speakers from the Ministry of Defence and from the defence industry set out to persuade their professional colleagues that protection against EMP should be built into new electronic systems.

EMP is a short-lived, but extremely intense, electromagnetic field, generated by a complex physical process as gamma radiation from a nuclear explosion ionizes the atmosphere.

If the bomb explodes close to the ground or in the lower atmosphere, EMP is soon absorbed by the earth and its effects are lost in the general destruction caused by blast, heat and radiation.

But if gamma rays from an explosion in space hit the upper atmosphere, the pulse can propagate and spread out over a very wide area. A large H-bomb detonated 100 kilometres above Western Europe would blanket the continent with electromagnetic energy at a rate of about one joule per square metre. Less than one-thousandth of this energy could damage some modern electronic circuits.

That is not enough to cause physical destruction or personal injury, but it would induce large surges of current in exposed electrical conductors, particularly cables and antennae. Experts believe that the entire electricity distribution system of Western Europe would be knocked out.

As Mr Wes Davidson, of Marconi Space and Defence Systems, told the Institution's members: "When one remembers that three simultaneous faults on the United Kingdom system this summer

were responsible for disrupting supplies to a very large area of southern England, one is tempted to speculate that an exo-atmospheric explosion would lead to unprecedented chaos."

"The telephone network and radio broadcasting would also be disrupted over the same area. All this could be achieved without blast or radiation effects at ground level."

One of the unfortunate by-products of the semiconductor revolution is to make us increasingly vulnerable to the EMP threat. For silicon chips and electronic circuits are damaged by electromagnetic fields millions of times smaller than old-fashioned vacuum tubes (valves) and electromechanical devices can withstand.

There is no experimental evidence about the large scale effects of EMP, because the atmospheric test ban treaty came into force just as scientists were becoming aware of the threat.

However, a hint came in July 1962, when the United States exploded an H-bomb at high altitude over an unpopulated area of the Pacific Ocean — 1,400 kilometres away in Hawaii, street lights and cars were lit and failed.

Although modern electronic systems have never been exposed to the real thing, Britain's Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston and the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in the United States have spent millions of pounds trying to imitate EMP.

With the help of the simulator, the Ministry of Defence and its industrial contractors are learning to "harden" military systems against EMP. The exact techniques are secret, but the broad strategy was outlined by Dr Philip Miller, of Marconi.

The civilian agencies liable to be knocked out by EMP — most notably the Central Electricity Generating Board and British Telecom — are no more forthcoming than the military about their precautions.

In the short term, the telephone network is becoming increasingly vulnerable as electronic exchanges are gradually superseded by the electronic TExAS and System X.

But in the long run, survival lies in the replacement of copper telephone cables by optical fibres, which are not affected by EMP.

IN BRIEF

Japan to cut tariff rates next year

□ Japan's average import tariff rate next year is to fall from 5.1 to 4.1 per cent under the plan by Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister to ease friction with its main trading partners.

Mr Tamio Amau, director-general of the ministry's information bureau, said that tariff cuts could affect about 2,000 items next year, ahead of scheduled reductions in 1983 and 1984.

The items would include computers, chocolate and biscuits, which are high on the list of tariff cuts sought by the United States and the European Economic Community. Duties would also be reduced on whisky, he said.

□ The first export order for the new Westland 30 civil helicopter, with the conversion of options, is worth \$36m (about £18.5m). The contract, placed by Airspur, of Los Angeles, California, is for six of the helicopters, with delivery of the first three due in the last quarter of 1982, the second three to follow a year later. All are to be powered by Rolls-Royce Gnome engines. This agreement covers a further 15 on option for delivery in the mid-eighties as traffic grows.

EEC steel inquiry

□ EEC Commission began legal proceedings against France yesterday over state aid to its steel industry. The commission wants more information on emergency loans of nearly £2,300m (about £213m) given by the government to each of two steel companies, Sacilor and Usinor.

Tea auction

□ Singapore began a challenge to London's domination of the tea trade today by staging the first international tea auction ever held outside the British capital.

£52m carrier order

□ Hyundai, of Korea, has received a \$100m (about £52m) order for four 38,000 d.w.t. bulk carriers from South India Shipping.

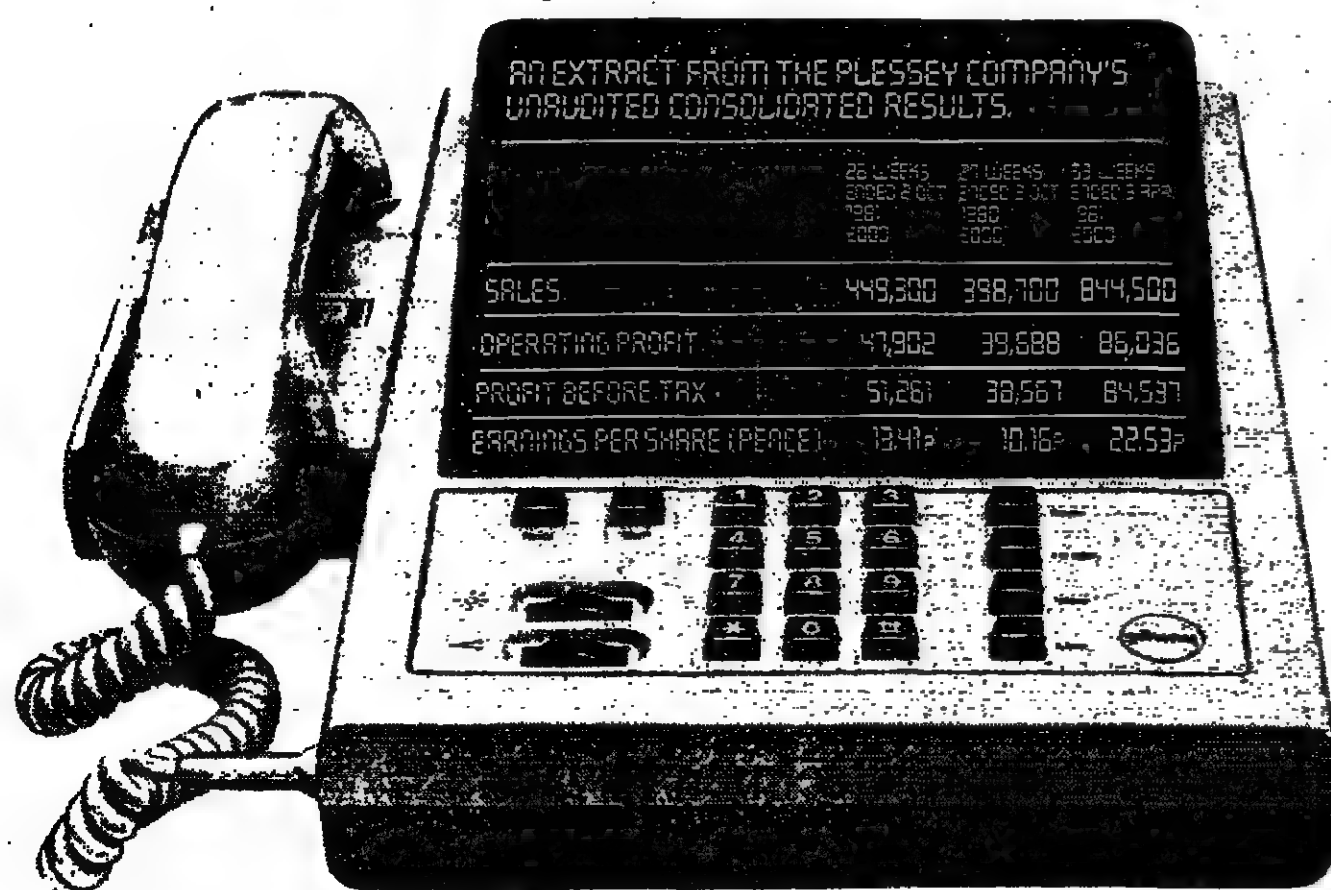
Japan car exports

□ A senior Japanese Government official has told the United States that Japan is opposed to any reduction in its 1982 car exports below the 1.66 million units set for this year.

Excellent performance sustained by Plessey

1981-82 HALF-YEAR RESULTS

- Group sales up 17% to £449.3 million
- Pre-tax profits up 32.9% to £51.3 million
- Earnings per share up 32%
- Orders at £1,212 million



PLESSEY

The Plessey Company plc, Vicarage Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 4AQ.

Bank tills ring for franchises

By Derek Harris

Franchisees, from fast food to plumbing services, are receiving more backing from the clearing banks.

National Westminster and Barclays, two of the big five, have now appointed staff to deal solely with the service. The banks are prepared to advance more than £10m to finance the setting up of new franchise units, under the scrutiny of a central approved controller who will act for the banks as the British Franchise Association.

Mr Duncan Whitfield, head of the Hometune car tuning service, said at the association's annual meeting in London yesterday that the move by banks would accelerate the growth of franchises.

There are nearly 50 members of the Association, with 1,400 outlets, and their sales last year increased by nearly 15 per cent to £327.5m. A further increase of about 12 per cent is forecast for this year.

The banks could have been influenced by high profits among franchised businesses. Much may also depend on the size of the operation because some hamburger franchises cost a new-comer £300,000 although the average initial investment on a franchise is just £18,500 among the association's members, many of whose businesses are comparatively small.

Spud-U-Like, the British School of Motoring subsidiary with 11 units selling baked potatoes says that some banks have offered as much as two thirds of the £30,000 capital needed by a franchisee for setting up one of its retail outlets.

Franchisees now employ 20,000 people — a 10 per cent increase in the past year — but a further 25 per cent rise is forecast for next year.

First fall in exports for Scotland

By Our Correspondent

The value of Scottish manufactured exports has gone up £500m in the past three years but because of inflation this represents a decline of 8.6 per cent.

It was the first fall since 1960 when the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) began keeping a check on exports.

A survey of the three years 1978 to 1980, published yesterday, shows that exports increased in value by 17 per cent, but the export price inflation of 28 per cent produced the 8.6 per cent decline, according to Mr Craig Campbell, the council's research director.

Scotland, however, is still more export-oriented than British industry as a whole.

The most valuable exports remain food, drink and tobacco, dominated by whisky, which accounts for 20 per cent of all Scottish manufactured exports. Whisky exports were worth £661m in 1978, £707m in 1979 and £747m in 1980.

After allowing for export price inflation, the survey reports that the only groups to show real growth were instrument and electrical engineering (up 47 per cent in value) and shipbuilding and marine engineering (up 60 per cent). Chemicals and petroleum products showed a decrease of 2 per cent and metal manufacture and metals a decrease of 9 per cent.

The survey illustrates the growing importance of the European Economic Community as a Scottish market. The community now receives more than 40 per cent of Scottish exports and nearly 45 per cent if whisky is excluded. North America now gets only 12.4 per cent and only 8.8 per cent without whisky. When Britain joined the community in 1973 both attracted 23 per cent.

Plea for housing land

By Susan Phillips

Britain's housebuilding industry will have to spend far more of its resources on the provision of adequate services for new housing schemes, according to a study of housing land availability published yesterday by the Standing Conference on London and the South East and the House Builders Federation.

The study calls for more cooperation between public and private sectors in London and so encourage larger building programmes. One of the main problems is the release of land to the private sector from local authority ownership.

Williams & Glyn's

Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 4th December 1981 its Base Rate for advances is reduced from 15% to 14½% per annum

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is reduced from 13% to 12½% per annum.

WILLIAMS & GYLN'S BANK LTD

UNILEVER N.V.

4% REDEMPTIBLE CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES OF FL 100 ISSUED BY N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTMAATSCHAP

The dividend for 1981 of 4% (FL 4.00) per share will be paid on and after 4 January 1982 to the holders of the certificates who have notified the company of their address for the dividend.

Dividend may be obtained from the following banks: Midland Bank Limited, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF; Northern Bank Limited, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF; Anglo-Irish Bank Limited, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF; CIBC Bank Limited, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

Separate forms are available for use (a) by Banks, UK firms of Stockbrokers, Solicitors or Chartered Accountants (b) by other claimants. Notes on the procedure, in each case, are printed on the forms.

Exchanges of original shares for certificates of sub-shares and vice versa will be suspended from 11 December 1981 to 31 December 1981 both dates inclusive. Certificates will only be accepted for exchange after 31 December provided that all dividends declared prior to that date have been claimed.

N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTMAATSCHAP London: The City of London, Unilever House, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. 3rd December 1981.

4% REDEMPTIBLE CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES OF FL 100 ISSUED BY N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTMAATSCHAP The dividend for 1981 of 4% (FL 4.00) per share will be paid on and after 4 January 1982 to the holders of the certificates who have notified the company of their address for the dividend. Separate forms are available for use (a) by Banks, UK firms of Stockbrokers, Solicitors or Chartered Accountants (b) by other claimants. Notes on the procedure, in each case, are printed on the forms.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rates come down a notch

With the Chancellor's statement out of the way the clearing banks duly did their stuff yesterday and clipped half a point off their base rates. No sooner said they done so, however, than the Bank of England was on the scene to provide a reminder that half a point was enough for the time being. At least that was how the market read things. Help available to relieve an officially projected shortage of some £150m was relatively scant; and the short shrift seemed to be given to what may have been some fairly cheeky rates at which the discount houses offered the Old Lady bills at midday.

The authorities' attitude is in many ways understandable. We live in a very volatile world. United States rates, for instance, have turned rather firmer this week, while the optimum background for funding must be a steady rather than headlong decline in interest rates. Even so, real interest rates remain high for a beleaguered United Kingdom industry and the authorities should not allow funding considerations to weigh too heavily among their priorities. They do, after all, like to think, and with some justification, that they have become more adept in their funding this year.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Higher bids, please

With decision day over its future looming ever closer, Royal Bank of Scotland has sprung quite a surprise with a set of full year figures which have left the City scratching its collective head in amazement. In the first half pretax profits fell by nearly one fifth to £42m and the combination of falling interest rates, pressure on margins and the continuing switch away from current to interest bearing accounts suggested a none too rosy second half.

In the event, the second half has been little short of remarkable producing £66m profit, leaving the full year up by 5 per cent to £108m and a good £20m better than most people expected. There are a number of explanations given for this. Bad debt provisions have fallen sharply from £8.9m in the first half to £4.5m in the second, the squeeze on costs has continued, volume appears to have held up better than expected, and the impact of falling interest rates has been mitigated. Although average base rates during the year were 13.3 per cent compared with 16.4 per cent the year before, the spread between base and deposit widened from 2.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent and net interest margins in the second half were a ½ point higher than in the first.

Even so, it is still hard to account fully for the strength of the second half, particularly since international profits were down over the year and the domestic side seems to have produced all the surprises in the second half. The irony is that by turning up such good figures Royal Bank is playing into the hands of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

If the Monopolies Commission gives the all clear for both bidders, Royal's preferred partner looks certain to lose out in a slugging match with Hongkong and Shanghai. Royal's asset value is now 260p a share which suggests that the successful suitor may have to pay about £100m more than the £485m which the two bidders are currently worth, and Standard Chartered's balance sheet is unlikely to be able to cope with that.

GEC Riding the recession

The imperious passage of Britain's largest electrical group through the troubled waters of recession continues barely ruffled. But so high are the market's expectations these days that even a 30 per cent increase in profits to £247.8m did nothing for the shares, down 15p to 779p last night on what admittedly was a poor day for equities. It seems an uncharitable reaction, even after stripping off the benefits of currency conversions and GEC's "cash mountain" now even larger than expected at £801m. Net interest received was £26.5m, little changed from last year's underlying figure, but affected

by a £7m loss on gilts against a £4m gain last year.

Electronics and telecommunications were the backbone of the group's first half increase in profits, contributing 34.5 per cent against 29 per cent a year earlier with long term orders helping through the recession. Canadian Marconi and Alcatel diesels in the United States were other strong spots. The Americas raised their profits contribution from £10.6m to £17.1m. Order books are 25 per cent higher than a year ago and are now in excess of £5,000m. Power engineering forms an important part of that and, significantly, 80 per cent of those orders are overseas, where margins can be sustained.

Plessey

Improving productivity

A jump of a third in Plessey's pretax profits at the half way stage to £51.3m was at the higher end of market expectations. A £1m net surplus on interest received, as against £2.8m paid for the corresponding period last year, helped, but serves more to underline the group's strong balance sheet. The benefits of currency conversions at higher dollar rates — American and Australian — have also given a little polish to the figures.

None the less, a jump in profits at the trading level from £50.8m to £60m is a solid enough performance. Telecommunications, aerospace and engineering have been the strong areas. The slimming down of the workforce over the past year has been followed by increased productivity as is reflected, albeit crudely, in the increase in sales per employee from £16,076 to £20,353.

Order books are healthy at about £1,200m. Defence sales overseas are growing, offsetting the present limitations of the home market. A study for a new sonar system for the United States Navy is encouraging both in its production profits potential and in that it was won against strong American competition. Likewise, its civilian telecommunications range is being upgraded and taken aggressively into international markets.

BP

Problems remain

British Petroleum is still struggling against the elements, and progress seems a little slower than might have been expected in the middle of the year. Third quarter net income was £203m against £209m last year, bringing the nine months figures to £799m, well below the £1,085m at the same time in 1980. On a current cost basis, moreover, the figures are terrible: a recovery, has £42m profits in the third quarter, has recouped sufficient of the earlier disaster to produce £19m for the nine months. But this time last year current cost profits were £467m.

Nevertheless, BP is making progress. Chemicals losses are still heavy at £49m outside North America, making a running loss for the year to date of £110m. The outcome for 1981 could be a loss of £150m from chemicals. BP also had to accept a £15m loss from its share of Kennecott. But elsewhere in mining and in oil product sales margins are slightly higher and Sobco continues to be a life-saver.

The company's argument is that after allowing for currency gains and cost of sales adjustment — effectively replacement of stocks — income is distinctly better, rising from £110m and £74m in the first and second quarters respectively to £257m in the third. It also points out that more favourable oil prices have partially been offset by the strength of the dollar which in August meant the effective crude price was \$10 a barrel higher than at the beginning of the year.

Closures will help to stem chemical losses, but oil trading remains the core of the group and is vulnerable as ever to price and currency fluctuations. BP may top £1,000m this year, compared with a 1980 net income of £1,400m. The collapse in stock profits from £210m to £55m in the last two quarters show how unpredictable conditions are, however. BP is not out of the wood yet.

Is the price of Howe's strategy too high?

David Blake

Like it or loathe it, you have to admit the extraordinary staying power of the Government's medium-term financial strategy.

It has been buffeted by economic circumstances beyond its control, and by its own internal contradictions. Political pressures by government "wets" are constantly applied, yet at the end of a week in which the Chancellor has announced his autumn package of economic measures, the MTFS, as its friends like to call it, remains firmly on course.

The Government's economic strategy since the early part of 1980 has been very much a "top-down" strategy. It starts with a commitment to controlling the total amount of money in the economy. Then it asks how the public sector can afford to borrow consistent with this growth in total money. Then, and only then, it asks how much spending should be allowed as one side of the Government's balance sheet.

It is, therefore, foolish at the best of times to look at one half of the equation and try to say that the Chancellor is pursuing a new non-monetarist strategy. Even on the most lavish interpretation, the Chancellor has done better at curbing back spending this year than he did last year. And we all know

the terrible retribution which he wreaked on all of us in his Budget for that.

So we ought to be very careful in assuming that increases in spending are the same as a relaxation of the economic strategy.

But there are, in any case, signs of a real relaxation in spending? In cash terms, it is true, the level for 1982-3 is up not merely from this year but also from the level which would have been expected by revaluing the last White Paper in line with the Government's pay and price assumptions. Look more closely at that statement and two weaknesses emerge.

The first is that the last set of spending plans was always unattainable in just those areas where the "extra" spending has been allowed.

The Government's spending plans have involved a steady inching towards reality after a first flush of enthusiasm in which it set itself unrealistic targets. The "increases" for nationalized industries are simply an upward revision of the spring figures which were, in turn, an update of the 1980 figures; we still face a big increase on nationalized industry investment.

That leads to the second problem for the "wet" interpretation of the spending decisions.

The apparent £5,000m increase in spending comes by comparing the actual cash figure expected with the figure produced by producing the Treasury's pay and price assumptions. But these assumptions were in turn based on an inflation forecast which has now been discredited. It is no wonder that government ministers are so keen to avoid being asked whether the volume of public spending will rise next year or not. In practice, it will be roughly static.

The implication of all this for borrowing is that even if the Government obtains only a very small amount, such as £500m, from asset sales next year, its actual borrowing level will be only £3,000m and its "underlying level" of borrowing (that is, without counting the £1,000m of revenue left over from this year) is still only £9,000m. This is, as the Chancellor rightly said, wholly consistent with his medium-term strategy.

What about the economic consequences which that strategy was designed to bring about? Here the Chancellor's case looks distinctly less impressive. Next year was designed to be the time when the strategy started paying off.

When the strategy was drawn up, it was assumed that the economy

would grow by 1 per cent a year between 1980 and 1983. "The economy should be capable of growing faster than this," the Government said. By spring this year 1 per cent growth was no longer "deliberately cautious" as an estimate, as had been claimed in the spring of 1980. We were down to ½ a per cent a year.

This was for the years 1980-83. So far we have had a minus 2 per cent in 1980, minus 2 per cent in 1981 and we are forecast plus 1 per cent in 1982. The net balance so far under the policy is minus 3 per cent.

The same pattern of slippage is now beginning to emerge on the inflation front. Inflation-fighting is what the policy is meant to be all about. Yet who now believes that the 6 per cent inflation figure for 1983-84, which clearly was the Government's target, is attainable.

If the Chancellor is right about the economy, we face the following prospect: the economy growing by only 1 per cent a year, with inflation in double figures and unemployment, in crude terms, over three million.

It is not good enough and as the Chancellor gets ready to draw up his budget his colleagues ought to draw him to one side and, ever so gently, point out the fact.

As the debt rescheduling deal nears collapse Richard Davy examines the economy

Poland's legacy of poor planning

Many people think that strikes are the main cause of Poland's economic crisis. They are wrong. According to the Polish Government, strikes have cost the country 10,500,000 man hours this year. The labour force in the state sector is 12.71 million (most of Polish agriculture is in private hands); this amounts to less than an hour per man.

Of course, strikes in certain key industries have effects out of proportion to the number of hours lost, so there has been damage, but other factors have been more important.

First there is the legacy of the 1970s, when the country was rushed headlong into badly planned industrialisation without enough expenditure on infrastructure, especially energy, and without structural reforms of the planning system that would have created the incentive for more efficient use of resources.

Agriculture was neglected, and the gap between industrial potential and available supplies of energy and raw materials widened steadily after 1977, though it was partly plugged by imports paid for with hard currency, which helped to obscure the problem.

At the same time some mines were being over-worked, to the detriment of safety standards and maintenance, while statistics were being distorted by the inclusion of extraneous matter in production reports. So trouble was brewing anyway, added to the price and currency problems in Western markets. Payment for the mistakes of the 1970s was falling due.

Then came a particularly bad harvest in 1980, largely because of bad weather, which reduced the potato crop by 40 per cent, the sugar crop by 33 per cent, and meant that more live-stock than usual was slaughtered, so that there was less in 1981 — pigs were down by 13 per cent, for instance.

At the same time, political upheavals arrived in August last year they tipped a bad situation into crisis. They had a particularly bad effect on the mining industries because of the Solidarity introduced union pressure from Solidarity. Production of a range of raw materials



Strikers at the gates of a glass works in Sandomierz: stoppages more apparent than damaging.

has dropped by between 12 and 27 per cent. Voluntary work for extra pay is drawing some coal miners back and there are signs of an upturn, but when there are so few goods to buy the incentive to work weekends is less. Yet unless coal production increases the rate of industry will run too slowly to produce the goods to provide the miners with incentives. This is one of the vicious circles in which Poland is now trapped.

Another is created by the almost total cessation of Western lending. This is understandable when Poland's debt to the West is more than \$27,000m (£13,775m) and her exports earnings are too low to service the debt, let alone repay it.

A result of this is that many factories are without vital components, spares and materials which can be had only for hard currency. Workers turn up eager to work but the factories stand idle. The figures then show a sharp drop in production but this is caused neither by strikes nor by unwillingness to work.

Many factories have been enterprising enough to set up direct links with suppliers and customers when normal channels have broken down. Yet the broad effect is to reduce Poland's earning power further. Some pump-priming is needed, and Polish economists are trying to find

ways of getting direct financing from the West for individual enterprises.

There are two other results of the political crisis. One is the paralysis of the central and local administration. Some officials no longer take decisions; others are too disgruntled to care, since they know that if the reforms go through there will be a huge loss of administrative jobs.

The other disastrous effect of the political crisis has been the rapid rise in wages. In the first three quarters of this year pay in the state sector rose by 27.9 per cent while industrial production dropped 13 per cent, exports 15.4 per cent and imports 10 per cent.

At the same time supplies to the consumer market are said to have increased by only 2 per cent, though even that must be doubted by anyone observing the empty shops.

In this situation money has come to mean very little, which has had a particularly bad effect on agricultural supplies. Farmers prefer a live pig to useless cash, so they do not take the pig to market. Instead they keep it alive, barter it locally, or sell it privately, though this practice is supposed to have been curbed since October.

The result is a disastrous slump in supplies to the towns, even when there is enough in the countryside.

It will be difficult to do much about this until money starts to mean something again, but this requires not only more industrial production but also a reform of the crazy price structure. For instance, the consumer can buy a litre of milk for about a

fifth of the price paid by the state to the farmer, but tampering with prices is politically dangerous.

Solidarity's general policy (though there have been some exceptions) is to say that it will not support price increases except in the context of wider economic reforms, but though these are supposed to come into effect on January 1 they are still embroiled in disagreement.

Membership of the International Monetary Fund should help if it means that the government can introduce an austerity programme without being blamed for it. Food aid will help if it is sufficient to make the situation less explosive, and it can reduce working time lost through queuing. Selective hard currency aid to specific industries could also have a multiplier effect.

But one Western economist was recently heard to mutter in private that what Poland really needs is Stalinist forced labour in the mines (which could solve the debt problem almost overnight) combined with a free market in the rest of the economy.

Business Diary: Williams and the nuclear safety catch

The Paris-based Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), is about to choose a new head. Its 60-year-old director general, Ian Williams, is due to retire after 15 years with the agency, four of them at the top. Williams joined this offshoot of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1966 when it was still a European body concentrating on nuclear research and development problems.

A former director of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's Health and Safety Division, Williams has steered the NEA into nuclear safety management, and broadened its membership to include non-European

nations such as Japan, Canada, Australia and the United States.

His most difficult moment was just after the first oil crisis when another, more "political" offshoot of the OECD, the International Energy Agency (IEA), threatened to take over some of the NEA's responsibilities. Williams succeeded in maintaining a certain independence for the NEA and the importance of the 85-strong NEA has grown steadily as nuclear safety has become an international issue.

A successor has yet to be announced, although those wonderful people who gave you Three Mile Island, the Americans, are reported to be keen to win the post. After the problems of the Vienna Convention on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States apparently feels the Paris body may prove a more useful vehicle for international cooperation in the nuclear field. The States agency responsible for nuclear technology transfer and non-proliferation, the IAEA is increasingly controlled by the Third World, and Western nations have been appointed a Swede, Hans Blix as secretary general instead of a Third World candidate.

Wallchart

THE HIGH STREET BANKS HAVE REALLY STANDARDIZED EMPLOYEE CONDITIONS NOWADAYS....



R. Young

Some readers have been puzzled, and others downright annoyed, by full page colour advertisements which Sony UK placed in *The Times* urging that we buy our television sets from its authorized dealers even though they may cost £80 more than those offered elsewhere.

The Sony advertisement explains that unauthorized dealers are selling sets at £209.95 which look the same as those authorized dealers sell at £289.95. The difference is that the "bargain" sets were originally designed for use on the Continent, "masked" into this country, "unmistakably converted" and might not work properly when installed.

Why, readers have been demanding to know, should sets which have to be transported from the Continent and adapted, however amateurishly, be available at so much less than the usual Sony dealers' price? Was it another case (like the notorious cars) of the British paying through the nose for something foreigners get cheap?

A Sony spokesman hastily explained: "The price difference we showed was perhaps an extreme one. We wanted to emphasize that a set bought from an unauthorized dealer may not be a bargain however cheap it appears."

The more usual price difference is only £20 or £30, and the company's policy is to have a uniform pricing throughout Europe. Authorized dealers have to offer demonstration facilities, after-sales service, and to honour our guarantee, so to that extent they can be undercut

by people who are simply selling boxes.

But what appears to account for most of the difference is that opportunists have been taking advantage of shifts in currency exchange rates. It has become a very considerable problem for us, especially in London.



National Westminster Bank Limited

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 4th December, 1981, its Base Rate is reduced from 15% to 14½% per annum. The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are reduced from 13% to 12½% per annum.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Agriculture boosts Pauls & Whites

By Paul Maitland

A significant improvement by the agricultural division of Pauls & Whites has helped the malster and manufacturer of flavours and animal feeds to increase profits by 55 per cent at the half-way stage.

Pretax profits for the six months to September 30 rose to £4.6m, against £3m for the corresponding period last year. Sales rose by 17.2 per cent to £131m.

Group trading profit was 37.4 per cent higher at £5.5m. Interest charges were down from £1.3m to £1.1m, but Mr John Clayton, the managing director, says that finance

charges for the full year are likely to be higher than last year because the present high level of interest rates coincides with peak seasonal borrowings.

Earnings per share rose from 7.61p to 12.01p. The group is raising its half-time dividends by 28.6 per cent to 3.214p gross.

The improvement in the agricultural side was helped by an upturn in the market for the group's pig production. Export margins were improved by favourable EEC agricultural financing provisions.

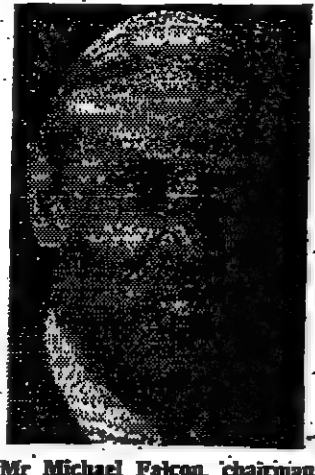
Mr Clayton said that the group's malting business benefited from reduced losses in

West Germany. Exports increased and this helped to offset the continued reduction in demand from brewers and distillers in the United Kingdom.

The fall in beer consumption also led to lower demand for hop extracts, but sales of flavours to the food and beverage industries continued to grow, reflecting the impact of the group's revamped sales and marketing strategy.

In Nigeria, the group's main export market, its animal feed mill ran at full capacity, but attributable profits were reduced by exchange rate movements.

Mr Clayton is looking to expand export markets elsewhere, particularly in Asia.



Mr Michael Falcon, chairman of Pauls & Whites.

Morgan Crucible falls to £5.3m after nine months

By Our Financial Staff

Morgan Crucible is still finding the United Kingdom a tough market for its speciality carbons and refractory products but is increasingly supported by its overseas companies and direct exports.

Pretax profits fell to £5.3m in the nine months to September from £8.9m last time on sales that rose by a mere 3 per cent to £97.7m. Nevertheless, this reflects a sharp improvement in the third quarter of trading since half-yearly figures to June showed a slump in pretax profits to £2.5m from £5.5m in the previous period.

The boost came from better trading overseas and exceeds profits in the same period last time—the first time since the first quarter of 1980.

Results from Hydrex, the American industrial lubricants group that Morgan bought in July for £19m, are included with profits of £200,000 on sales of £300,000. The average covered in the Acorn division

which show overall increased profits to £14m against £11m but are not evident in the pretax figures due to a cover for finance charges.

At the trading level profits are down to £7.8m from £11.1m and are further knocked by higher interest charges at £2.8m against £2.3m. Morgan's purchase of Hydrex was quickly followed by a call for £10m of rights issue money to finance the deal and raised its medium-term loans by £14.7m.

Hydrex is forecast to make annual pretax profits of £3m. Mr Ian Weston Smith, chairman, says direct exports and sales by overseas subsidiaries now account for 66 per cent of total sales compared with 59 per cent in the same period a year ago.

Trading margins have been under further pressure, slipping to 8.1 per cent against 11.7 per cent in the comparative period. The average last year was 10.3 per cent.

Burnett & Hallamshire up 42pc

The recession has proved only a minor irritation to Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, the largest open-cast mining group in Britain with growing oil and property interests.

In the six months to September it has produced a rise in pretax profits of 42 per cent to £5.7m. Turnover from the Sheffield-based group jumped by 59 per cent to £50m. After slightly lower tax

charges of £1.9m and an extraordinary item of £174,000, attributable profits were £3.5m against £1.9m. This gave earnings per share of 34.6p compared with 22.26p.

Shareholders will receive a 34 per cent rise in the half-time dividend to 9.2p gross and it is the board's intention to equalize the half-year and full year payments. The group's shares rose £½ to £10½ on the news.

Mr George Helsby, chairman, says progress within the group's mining division has been excellent. The property division has experienced mixed fortunes with some weak demand at home, but there are signs the demand for industrial property is beginning to pick up. Overseas, he said, results were satisfactory and sales in the oil division were delivered well ahead of national trends.

Scotscro buys two companies

Scotscro, the Glasgow-based packaging, food and engineering group, has made two international purchases, one in France and one in the United States, for £1.4m.

In France it has reached agreement for the acquisition of 65 per cent of the share capital of E. P. Remy et Cie, a private company situated in Dreux. The consideration is 9.75m francs (£891,000). Permission has been received from the relevant French authorities and completion will take place in January.

Remy manufactures and sells a wide range of bottle filling and handling equipment. In the year to last December sales were 45m francs and profits before tax but after charging interest and depreciation totalled 3.5m francs. Total net assets at December 31 were 16.4m francs.

In the United States Scotscro has reached agreement to buy the entire share capital of Sotex, a Swiss company whose assets are in California. The consideration will be \$1m (£513,000) in cash.

The base in California will be used to expand Scotscro's overseas sales and will provide a valuable introduction to J. Deans and Company, Scotscro's wine importer and bottler, to the fast growing Californian wine industry.

Good Relations to join Unlisted Market

By Our Financial Staff

Good Relations Group, one of the three largest public relations consultancies in the country, yesterday was the first of its kind to open its doors to investors.

The group is joining the Unlisted Securities Market with a placing of 28.5 per cent of its equity. The issue is for 950,000 shares of 10p each at 61p per share and will raise £583,500. Since none of the directors is disposing of any shares, the entire proceeds will be kept by the group to be used for expansion plans, which include finding new premises to bring its offices under one roof.

Good Relations is forecasting pretax profits of £250,000 for the year to December 31 on turnover of about £2.4m. This compares with profits last year of £107,000 on turnover of £2m.

As the placing price, the price earnings ratio is 42.1. With the recommended dividend for next year of not less than 2.5p, the gross yield would be 5.9 per cent and covered twice on the basis of forecast earnings per share of 5.02p this year.

Good Relations, founded by Mr Anthony Good in 1960, covers a range of services from consumer to industrial, financial and corporate information to advising clients on developments at home and in the EEC. It has some 55 contracted clients on its lists with no one company exceeding 10 per cent of turnover, but Philips Industries and Johnsons Wax are among its largest clients.

Stockbroker Laurie Millbank arranged the share placing and dealings are expected to start next week on December 10.

Dresdner Bank to pay dividend

Dresdner Bank, West Germany's second largest private sector bank, will be able to pay a dividend for this year despite losses on gold dealing and from an injudicious investment in fixed interest securities by its subsidiary, the Deutsche Ländersbank.

Dr Hans Frederichs, the bank's chief executive, told a press conference that the net profit for 1981 was likely to be less than last year's Dm155m (£35.8m). But the bank was now looking forward to the next year with a cautious optimism.

Greenall climbs 10pc

By Peter Wainwright

Greenall Whitley, the largest independent brewery in the country, best known for Vladimir, the vodka from Warrington, yesterday reported a 10.5 per cent increase to £22.5m in pretax profits for the year to September 25.

This advance was better than that recently reported by Whitbread, but much worse than the one returned by Allied Lyons which was, however, recovering from a bad previous year. Turnover at Greenall went up by 8.7 per cent to £194.9m, indicating a

fall in quantity sold. The group owns more than 1,700 hotels, pubs and off licences. The year's figures indicate that Greenall did better in the second half, but this largely reflected the timing of beer price increases. Mr Christopher Heston, chairman, reports: "It is too early to predict current trends, but trading conditions continue to be difficult. Even so, the total dividend rose 10 per cent to 4.9p gross."

The shares fell 3p to 137p yesterday.

The General Electric Company Limited

Interim Report

1. The unaudited results for the six months ended 30th September 1981 are:-

	6 months to 30th Sept. 1981	6 months to 30th Sept. 1980	Year to 31st March 1981
Sales (to customers outside Group)	£1,990	£1,594	£3,462
Profit before Taxation	247.8	189.7	475.8
Profit after estimated Taxation and Minority Interests	142.8	111.2	298.9
Estimated Earnings per share	24.0p	20.3p	54.5p

2. The directors have declared an interim dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 4.25p (1980, 3.5p) per share payable on 31st March 1982 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 18th February 1982. The cost of the interim dividend is £23.3 million (1980, £19.2 million).

3. Export sales in the six months amounted to £204 million (1980, £430 million) and export orders received totalled £1,130 million (1980, £663 million).

4. Bank balances and short term deposits less bank overdrafts at 30th September 1981 were £201 million (31st March 1981, £561 million).

5. Analysis of turnover (including inter-Group sales) and profits for the six months to 30th September 1981 is as follows:-

	1981	1980	1981	1980
United Kingdom	£m	£m	£m	£m
Power Engineering	155	237	24.0	22.3
Industrial	167	170	21.0	20.8
Electronics, Automation and Telecommunications	660	557	85.5	55.4
Components, Cables and Wire	219	229	18.7	20.7
Consumer Products	133	139	6.9	3.0
Associated Companies	70	61	0.4	0.1
Overseas				
Subsidiaries—see below	634	359	39.7	29.2
Associated Companies	181	137	18.6	14.3
Other Activities and Items	13	11	6.5 (a)	(11.5) (b)
Interest Receivable, less Payable	—	—	26.5	35.4 (c)
	2,332	1,900	247.8	189.7

Minority Interests included above

Note: The figures above include (a) credit of £20.4 million; (b) debit of £11.4 million in respect of the Company's holdings of foreign currency balances, to value them at exchange rates ruling at 30th September 1981 and 1980 respectively; (c) credit of £8.9 million for interest received relating to an earlier period.

Overseas Subsidiaries: Territorial Analysis

	1981	1980	1981	1980
Europe	£m	£m	£m	£m
The Americas	392	42	6.9	7.6
Australia	91	60	17.1	10.6
Asia	67	54	6.8	4.0
Africa	15	12	2.3	1.2
	634	329	39.7	29.2

S&C

TSB BASE RATE

With effect from the close of business on Friday, 4th December, 1981 and until further notice TSB Base Rate will be 14½ per annum

TSB

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Central Board

P.O. Box 33, 3 Cophall Avenue, London EC2P 2AB.

Universities to finance Trust Securities project

Trust Securities Holdings, the Unlisted Securities Market quoted group headed by Mr Peter Jones, yesterday unveiled its long awaited financing of the substantial 350-acre scheme at Heathrow Airport known as the Stockley Park Project Trust.

TSR announced that the first phase of the scheme, amounting to about 1.5 million sq ft of office, accommodation, retail and warehousing, will be funded by the Universities Superannuation Scheme for £50m.

It is being developed in conjunction with the London Borough of Hillingdon, and will be a major leisure and commercial development. About 258 acres of the park

will be devoted to a public golf course and other facilities. A commercial science park is expected to extend to around 30 acres of which 75 acres will be a low density campus-style commercial development of 1.5 million sq ft.

Now that details of the scheme have been revealed, Trust still has to get planning permission before it can begin work. Mr Jones said: "It could start next September."

The project is likely to cost £100m to £125m to develop and could have an investment value of around £175m.

Mr Jones said yesterday the group had already received enquiries as much as £4 million sq ft of commercial and industrial space.

ML Duxford in liquidation

Commodity broker M. L. Duxford has gone into voluntary liquidation after unsuccessful attempts to sell both its 8, James Street, property and its business. Duxford specialised in managing commodity portfolios for both private and institutional clients, but announced that it had ceased trading in commodities on November 27. Talks on the sale of the property and the business are still continuing. Mr George Anger of accountants Stoy Hayward has been appointed liquidator and the first creditors' meeting will be on December 16. Wilson Smithett and Cope, a subsidiary of commodity traders Guinness Peat, is the main creditor having lent Duxford more than £2m against the security of Duxford's head office premises.

Best-ever half-year for Scapa

The Scapa Group's profits for the six months to September 30, 1981, were the best in the company's history.

Although United Kingdom sales declined those in North America and other countries soared, with the result that the total was up from £39.6m to £48.9m. United Kingdom operating profits were down but with those from North America doubling and the contribution from elsewhere higher, the total is up from £5.3m to £12.8m. Interest payable has fallen from £1.3m to £1m and so pretax profits have jumped by 62 per cent to £6.81m. Pretax profits for the year to March 31 reached a best-ever, £9.2m.

Lifting the interim dividend from 4p to 4.25p gross, the directors say they are confident that the year's results will show a considerable rise.

Sir J. Causton

On turnover up from £14.2m to £14.9m, pretax profits of £1.4m, the Scapa Group's profits rose from £24,000 to £88,000 in the year to September 30.

The board explains that the continued strength of the group's specialist book printing, packaging and publishing businesses more than compensated for the decline in general commercial printing profits.

The total gross dividend is going up from 2.5p to 3.04p a share.

United Wire

On turnover down from £14.6m to £14.3m, the United Wire Group's pretax profits slipped from £798,000 to £532,000 in the year to October 3. As the first half-year's profits were only £30,000, there was a big improvement in the last six months. In view of the present year's favourable outlook, the total dividend is being maintained at 3.21p gross a share.

Fine Art lower

Although sales expended from £31.6m to £32.8m, pretax profits of Fine Art Developments, a printing company, slipped from £260,000 to £265,000 in the half-year to September 30.

Business appointments

Overseas commercial chief for Talbot

Mr E. W. Gadd has been named the Talbot Motor Company director for overseas commercial operations. His responsibilities include Talbot's resident organisation in Iran, Iran sales administration and overseas supply.

Mr M. J. M. Morgan has been named general manager for international operations. He is responsible for sales and marketing in the Middle East and Africa. He is at present director and general manager for sales of the subsidiary company, GEM Contractors. He succeeds Mr J. A. Bennet, who is retiring.

Mr Roger Cordell will become general manager of the Medical and General Life Assurance Society after the retirement of Mr Leonard Hall on February 25. Mr Hall will continue as a director of the society. Mr Andrew O'Leary is to be secretary and secretary, Mr Eric Hodson, assistant general manager (administrative). Mr Peter Ford, joint secretary and Mr Gerald Smith, joint accountant.

Mr Jane Calnan has been named by the Bank of Scotland as its new industrial director. She replaces Mr Nicholas Finney, who has been made

director of the National Association of Port Employers. Mr Richard C. Orr has been designated vice-president for airline planning at Pan American World Airways.

Dr Charles Sackling is to join Albright & Wilson as a part-time non-executive director from January 1. He is to retire shortly from his present post as general manager of research and technology for the ICI Group worldwide.

Mr C. M. M. Morgan has been named as director of communications from January 1. Mr D. J. Hartnett has resigned from the board.

Mr R. A. Sheppard has become deputy managing director of Cayes, Irvine Shipping on the retirement of Mr T. R. Y. Gallwey. In addition to Mr Sheppard's directorships of Union-Castle Line and Clan Line he now becomes a director of King Line, Houston Line, and the British India Line. Mr R. A. Sheppard has joined the board of The Scottish Tanker Company.

Mr Roger L. Low is now managing director of Dean Witter Reynolds Overseas.

Mr Ian H. Phillips has been named a director of The British Steam Specialities Group.

Mr Arthur Britten, who has been deputy editor of The Sun for nine years, has become director of corporate relations for News International. He will take charge of public relations for the News Corporation and all its activities, as well as co-ordinating all corporate and staff relations for News International in Great Britain. Mr Britten will operate from Gray's Inn Road and will take up his new duties as soon as possible.

Mr Stephen R. Patschke has been named president and chief executive officer of Amalgamated Group, the North American subsidiary of Consolidated Gold Fields.

Mr Frank Lewis has been made director of finance for KMI Films. Previously, he was company secretary and a director, and succeeded Mr John Chambers who leaves KMI at the end of the year.

Yorkshire Bank Base Rate

With effect from 4th December, 1981 our Base Rate will be changed from 15% to 14% p.a.



Yorkshire Bank Limited
Reg. Office: 20 Merrion Way
Leeds LS2 8NZ

THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP

announces that on and after

4th December, 1981

the following annual rates will apply

Base Rate . . . 14½% (Previously 15%)

Deposit Rate (basic) 12½% (Previously 13%)

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

The British Bank of the Middle East

Mercantile Bank Limited
Antony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.



Co-op Bank announces a change in base rate

From 15.00% to 14.50% p.a.

With effect from Friday, 4th December 1981

Deposit Rates will become:
7 day deposits 12.50% p.a.
1 month deposits 12.75% p.a.

Short-term deposits up from 13.50% to 15.10% p.a.

depending on amount & term (minimum £500 & 6 months)



Your caring sharing bank

EVANS OF LEEDS LIMITED

Property Investment Group
UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1981

	1981	1980	1981	1980
Gross rents receivable	£2,548,463	£2,198,300	£2,548,463	£2,198,300
Interest receivable	115,853	11,447	115,853	11,447
Sundry income	1,833	1,007	1,833	1,007
Profit from development and sale of properties	34,453	48,820	34,453	48,820
Less interest charges and other expenses	1,988,577	1,143,144	1,988,577	1,143,144
Profit before taxation	1,413,749	1,171,361	1,413,749	1,171,361

Interim dividend of 1p per share payable 8th January 1982 (comparative 1981 0.525p per share).

Not just pretty patterns as synchronized swimming lives down the Esther Williams' image

Brains, beauty and perfectionism

It happened to see to first of it on television, and I thought it was hard to see for new sports. I was watching a tape of the 1980 Olympic Games, and I was struck by the beauty of the sport. It was a combination of grace and strength, and it was something I had never seen before.

Color-drawing but waving? It was a combination of grace and strength, and it was something I had never seen before. It was a combination of grace and strength, and it was something I had never seen before.

This is the sort of older's attitude which the girls of the synchronized swimming - or such is the title of their aquatic sport - have had to live with for the last twenty years or so. Now, at long last, they have broken through.

The two girls were practising at week at the Croydon Pool, a North London, their first session together since their triumph in Spain where they won the gold medal. It was a triumph that had been a long time coming.

It does need an expert eye to appreciate many of their figure exercises, but then that is the case with figure skating or gymnastics. Now, thanks to television, millions of people understand and enjoy the sport.

Synchronized swimming is a little like those two sports, combined perhaps with ballet. The object is to make perfect body patterns, either singly or in teams, on top or underneath the water. In a competition, you have first to do a series of set figures. There are 36 in all, but just before an event, the names of six are drawn from a hat. That is the compulsory part and even the most experienced swimmer will admit that it can be very boring for the layman to watch.

Then come the routines, which are much more glamorous. The girls wear a fancier swimming costume, often sequins, and put on make-up (water-proof, of course) and do their hair rather more extravagantly (kept in place with gelatine) and then perform their own free-expression movements to music (using water-proofed loudspeakers, otherwise they couldn't hear, could they).

I haven't met anyone who doesn't enjoy watching the routines, said Carolyn. "We always have a Christmas show at our club and people absolutely love it. Really, I've never met a disappointed person yet."

Carolyn is 22 and comes from Farnborough, Hampshire. Her father is a metallurgist and there are two swimmers in the family. At five, she was sent to ballet lessons, as her mother hoped to give her poise and gracefulness. "It didn't work. At five, I wasn't very co-ordinated."

It was not till she was 13 that she took up synchronized swimming, mainly because there happened to be a club locally who were looking for volunteers to try it out. By the age of 17, she was in the British team.

At the same time, she was continuing with her A levels. One of the interesting things about synchro swimming is that it attracts intelligent girls.



Upside down life of the synchronized swimmer leaves room for manoeuvre.

Almost all of the eight women in the GB team have good A-levels, if not degrees. They all say the sport needs great mental concentration. Having 36 figures to swim up, then being given only six at a time to do, does sound very much like a test.

Carolyn passed biology (A), chemistry (B) and physics (C) at A levels, and went on to take a top second in botany and zoology at Bristol University. She graduated in the summer and has been employed since, working on a Sports Aid Foundation grant, concentrating on her swimming. "All my lecturers told me I couldn't do both things."

I wanted to prove them wrong and also do it for the sport, she says. Carolyn is a perfectionist. "I have a chance," said Carolyn, "of doing something in anything else. If I don't do it now, and see it through, I'll regret it all my life. I am by nature a perfectionist. I can spend three hours working on a single thing, getting it exactly right, or the arm at the exact angle. When I do it, it's a brilliant feeling, even though I know only a tiny amount of people will realize I've done it."

One of the standard synchro figures is to remain in the water completely vertical, but upside down. Most people, even experienced swimmers, tend to move backwards. Carolyn is one of the few who can stay perfectly vertical, but upside down. "It's a bit of a challenge," she says. "You have to be very strong and very flexible. It's a bit of a challenge, but it's worth it."

Carolyn is also extremely good at staying under the water. In one of her routines, she is under for 62 seconds. "It takes great strength to do this, not just lying there holding your breath. It is only when you look closely at the girls that you realize that they wear nose clips, little plastic coated bits of wire which close the nose. (50p each, made by Laxo, for those who fancy trying out the trick.)"

All breathing is done through the mouth. When you're upside down underwater for such long spells, the air would rush out of your nose, and in would come the water. It could be a rather nasty "it's a vital piece of equipment. Without it, you would get awful sinus trouble."

There are few male synchro swimmers so far. It is almost an all-girl sport. "Legs matter so much," said Carolyn. "I wouldn't want to look at men's legs, would you?"

"That's a bit sexist," said Carolyn. "I would like to see men coming into the sport. I used to think that the idea of a male ballet dancer was weird, all I saw Nureyev. Men would bring in different qualities. They would do it to emphasize their strength and different physiques. Do it in a masculine way."

So far, the East Europeans have not yet developed any champions after the United States, Canada, and Japan. Great Britain is fourth in the world but they are reported to be working on it, for the next Olympics. A Russian team tried to film Carolyn when she was training in Split last year, to have a record of her routines, but she stopped them. With luck, she will reach her peak next year for the world championships.

What you must never do with synchro-swimmers is make any jokes about Esther Williams. This is presumably partly how it all began, but today's high-powered hard training, highly motivated girls dismiss all that as "acrobatic art."

"We're a sport," said Carolyn. "Not an art form. We do more than pretty patterns in the water. It's been a long battle to persuade people, but getting into the Olympics should make us be taken seriously at last."

Hunter Davies

Nina O'Clock News together in bed, then went to sleep. "They are close friends, as well as swimming partners, but by living in different towns they only manage to train together every second weekend. They both say the North American girls who are still the leaders in the field, though Carolyn did beat a top Canadian."

"Over there, thanks to sports scholarships, and sporting universities, your sporting life comes first, and they organize your academic life round it. Here, everything has to be fitted in. You have to be really determined to carry on."

Carolyn also has a regular boy friend, an accountant. "Boy friends have to realize they take second place, which is very hard for them." So why on earth do they do it, putting up with such obstacles and hardships?

"I have a chance," said Carolyn, "of doing something in anything else. If I don't do it now, and see it through, I'll regret it all my life. I am by nature a perfectionist. I can spend three hours working on a single thing, getting it exactly right, or the arm at the exact angle. When I do it, it's a brilliant feeling, even though I know only a tiny amount of people will realize I've done it."

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MOTURING by Peter Waymark

Samba may restore Talbot's image



The Talbot Samba - a tough task ahead

The trouble with Talbot is not its cars, but its image. Or rather the lack of one. The name chosen by Peugeot for the former Chrysler subsidiary, which it acquired in 1978, has still not registered enough with the motoring public.

To talk of Renault or Volvo or Citroen is to summon up the idea of a certain type of car, the image names are a shorthand for the customer's perception of the model range - Renault compact and practical, Volvo safe and durable, Citroen advanced and stylish.

Talbot's task, as it struggles to hold a modest 5 per cent of the British market, is to establish a similar identity. That it has failed to do so up to now is not necessarily the fault of the models: the Alpine and Horizon, after all, were both good enough to win Car of the Year awards and the big Targa has also been widely praised.

Yet the parts do not add up to a whole, as Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot in Britain, is the first to admit. The message he will be trying to get across in the next few months will be one that equates Talbot with value for money, no other manufacturer he claims can offer such a fuel efficient range of cars.

Mr Turnbull should be helped in this endeavour when the new French-built Samba is launched in Britain in February, for the official fuel consumption figures for the 1124cc GL model show that it comfortably beats any car available: 48.7 mpg in urban driving, 61.4 mpg at a steady 56 mph and 44.8 mpg at 75 mph.

The Samba will not come a moment too soon for Talbot which has been without a contender in the small car sector since the closure of Lincoln and the consequent ending of Sunbeam production. At its peak, the Sunbeam was taking 2 per cent of new car sales. Talbot hopes that the Samba will do at least as well. That suggests 24,000 registrations in 1982 and 30,000 in a full year.

Given Peugeot's policy of seeking maximum rationalization while preserving the separate marques, it comes as no surprise that the Samba should make use of existing components and body panels. In fact, it bears a close resemblance to the three-door version of the Peugeot 104, both under the skin (same overhead camshaft engines, gearbox and suspension) and in the skin itself, for the doors, tailgate, bonnet and a part of the front wings are common to both models.

It is no surprise, either, to find that the Samba follows the same basic design as rivals like the GL Metro, Ford Fiesta and Volkswagen Polo in having an engine mounted transversely and driving the front wheels and a rear seat that can be folded down to increase luggage space.

The Samba does not, however, employ the Metro's useful split rear seat facility and although, at 11½ feet, it is four inches longer than the British car, it is less roomy in the back. Tall adults will find their heads hard up against the roof. With the rear seat in use, the boot is small and suffers from the intrusion of the suspension units.

The all-independent suspension inherited from Peugeot guarantees an excellent ride, combining the ability to absorb rough surfaces with good damping to contain wallow. The seats, though lacking support at the side, are, in the French manner, comfortably soft.

The rack and pinion steering is light and accurate, if a little low geared for parking. Handling is not as taut as on the German Polo, but by French standards there is only moderate body roll on a canted road. The gearbox has a springy feel, acceptable once you get used to it.

In designing the Samba, Talbot's engineers devoted much effort to reducing noise. The engine is impressively quiet and the car can be cruised happily at 70mph with wind noise as low as well, although the car I tried produced an annoying whistle around the door seals. Some tyre thump is noticeable on broken surfaces.

There are three engine sizes: 954 cc, 1124 cc and 1360 cc. The middle one, as I have indicated, is the fuel economy champion, thanks to a good power to weight ratio and high gearing. The 1124 is not, however, particularly

quick. Acceleration to 60 mph through the gears takes 18 seconds. You often have to drop down to third for overtaking.

The 954 cc version is only slightly slower, yet its consumption figures are significantly inferior: 39.8 mpg in urban driving, 52.3 at 56 mph and 37.2 at 75 mph.

For those wanting performance, the car to choose is the 1360 cc GLS. With 71 bhp (the others have 41 and 49), it accelerates to 60 mph in 12.5 seconds and has far more pull in top gear. Consumption is down, though, the official figures being 33.6 mpg, 51.4 and 39.2.

Talbot will also be offering the Samba in a soft top Cabriolet version, styled by Pinin Farina in Italy. It will be powered by the 1360 cc engine and have a five-speed gearbox; it should be the smallest, and presumably cheapest - soft top in regular production.

Prices for the Samba in Britain have not yet been fixed. Talbot insists they will be competitive, and if the range were available now it would probably start at about £3,300. There will probably be a "cheap" base model, equivalent to the Fiesta Popular.

With so many other "superminis" already established in the market, the Samba, a good car though not an outstanding one, will find it difficult to break in. Somehow the Talbot marketing team, headed by a talented ex-Ford man, Mr Todd Evans, has got to convince potential customers that the Samba is a better bet than the Metro, Fiesta, Polo, Renault 5, Fiat 127, Citroen Visa and Peugeot 104, not to mention several rivals from Japan.

The fuel consumption of the 1124 model must be a powerful selling point: the Samba also scores highly on comfort and refinement, while the Cabriolet will give the range a certain glamour. It will be interesting, when

the car goes on sale here, to learn what Talbot has to say about servicing and repair costs, for miles per gallon is not the only index of economy.

Samba by the way, may not be the name used in Britain, where a corruption to Samba could have unfortunate racial connotations. The most likely alternative is the Sunbeam, the name of the last small Talbot hatchback, while Targa, Trio and Scamp are also under consideration. But if the car proves good enough, the name should hardly matter.

My renewed acquaintance with the Astra has confirmed it as one of the leading cars in its class, where rivals include the Ford Escort, Talbot Horizon and Fiat Strada. Handling is one of its best features, being taut and responsive in the German manner and recalling that the Astra started life as the Opel Kadett.

It is nimble on corners, with little body roll, and has superb road holding. The ride is firm, and so are the seats, but the car is far from being uncomfortable.

The front-wheel drive layout and a cross-mounted engine means good interior space and within a compact overall length of just over 13ft the Astra is a generous four-seater with a roomy boot which can be extended by folding down the rear seats. Unlike many hatchbacks, the tailgate extends almost to floor level.

The introduction of the 1.6 litre coincides with the start of Astra production in Britain. Originally, all the cars were imported from Opel in West Germany, but from now on most will be supplied from Vauxhall's plant at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside. The cars still have a high German content, including engines, gearboxes, suspension units, and body panels, but assembly in Britain is at least keeping jobs that would otherwise have been lost.

Astra production at Ellesmere Port is building up to 60,000 units a year, which means that sales of the car should almost double from the 1981 target of around 32,000. That in turn should put Vauxhall on the way towards its target of increasing its market share (including Opel models) from the present 8.5 per cent to 16 per cent by 1985.

Meanwhile, the new Cavalier, for which demand has been far outstripping the company's ability to produce, has helped Vauxhall in November to its best monthly penetration, 10.7 per cent, for three years.

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The Council keeps under review all aspects of housing and planning policy, undertakes research, promotes national and regional conferences, and makes representations to Government Departments and other bodies. Its annual conference and exhibition is regarded as one of the main events of the housing and planning calendar.

The Council seeks to appoint a Director who will be responsible for representing and developing the Council's work. He or she will work from the Council's offices at Narvin House, 45-55 Commercial Street, London E1.

The salary is within the local authority PO2 range. The post is superannuable.

Application forms and further details of this important and challenging post may be obtained from:

Councillor A. Crooks, JP, Chairman NHTPC, 3 Victor Terrace, Bexley, Durham DH7 7DG. Applications should be submitted to him by 11th January 1982.

RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Required principally to catalogue and classify books and prints, and also to assist in the public relations work of the Society. The post is full-time, permanent, and offers a salary of £3,000 p.a. plus pension. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a degree in History or a related subject. Applications should be sent to: The Society for the Preservation of the Written Word, 10 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1JA.

COOKING SCHOOL
PA/ADMINISTRATOR
Required for a busy catering establishment. The post is full-time, permanent, and offers a salary of £3,000 p.a. plus pension. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a degree in Food Science or a related subject. Applications should be sent to: The Catering Association, 10 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1JA.

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FOR DETAILS OF ADVERTISING IN THE TIMES
Contact: The Times Advertising Department, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-562 5000.

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CORDON ROUGE
or similar required for a post in the Cordon Rouge Department. The post is full-time, permanent, and offers a salary of £3,000 p.a. plus pension. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a degree in Law or a related subject. Applications should be sent to: Cordon Rouge, 10 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1JA.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, HERTFORD. Applications are invited for the post of MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL. Further details available from the Principal's Secretary, St. Stephen's House, 16 Marston Street, Oxford OX4 1JX. Closing date for applications: Saturday, 8th January, 1982.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
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Volleyball

Norway willing to stage event for men

Following the success of the first North Sea Cup tournament in Vancouver, Norway, last weekend, here are plans not only to continue the women's competition but also to introduce a similar one for men.

The cup is confined to the smaller nations, with Denmark, England and Scotland joining the men, Norway, the Danes, who are the inaugural competition, will be the first to take part.

Moves are afoot to begin a similar tournament for men's teams, there being general agreement that there is a need for a "test" of competition among the middle order of west European nations for both men's and women's teams.

The Norwegians have already indicated their willingness to host the first men's competition, in 1982, and the other federations in the English, Scottish and Welsh, will be considering the proposal. Both tournaments could be called the North Sea Cup, and sponsorship would be sought for them.

The Danes, who won the tournament on set difference from continental teams, were victorious on the Scots, on their first overseas trip for four years, were defeated by their performance, particularly in the final, over England. England can take consolation from the fact that they were the only side to lose in the final, 2-1. The boys with young teams, did not win a match but retained their enthusiasm.

The event was covered on Norwegian television, giving some idea of the relative status of the sport there and in Britain.

Squash rackets

Two likely pretenders to Barrington's throne

By Rex Bellamy
Squash rackets Correspondent
The British national championship, sponsored by Thornton's, the confectioners, begins this evening at Abbotsley Park, near Sherfield. Next Thursday the winner will collect £1,425 of the £8,800 prize money. John Barrington, who achieved a remarkable triumph last year at the age of 39, cannot defend his title because he is regaining his fitness after surgery. His successor will almost certainly be either Gavin Brice (Norfolk) or Philip Kenyon (Northampton).

Brice won the inaugural championship in 1979, in Barrington's absence overseas, and was runner-up last year. Barrington's toughest match was against Kenyon who led him by two games to one in the semi-final. A year earlier Kenyon had been stopped in the quarter-finals by Ian Robinson (Yorkshire) who is again in the same half of the draw. Kenyon will also be wary of the prospect of a semi-final match with another Yorkshireman, Chris Willrop, the new under-23 champion.

Brice, Kenyon and Robinson make up a formidable trio, but Brice's physical and emotional peaks so soon after the world championship in which they were competing on the other side of the Atlantic little more than a week ago. Brice looks to have the easiest run to the final but Kenyon's form could benefit from sharper challenges.

The seedings suggest that the last eight will line up as follows: Brice v Ashley Naylor (Yorkshire), David Pearson (Lancashire) v his brother, Brian Pearson (Yorkshire), John Leach (Berkshire) v Robinson, and Geoff Williams (Sussex) v Kenyon.

The Pearson brothers were born at Exeter but have since given their allegiance to robes of different colours. The seeds cover a wide range of ages from John Easter

